



May 2021

TO: School District Superintendents
School District State Aid Designees
BOCES District Superintendents
School Building Leaders
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Sean Giambattista, Director of Education Finance

RE: 2021-22 School Year COVID-19 Snow Day Pilot Program

As part of the Department's ongoing efforts to provide districts with flexibility in meeting local needs, the Department is extending through the 2021-22 school year the pilot to enable school districts to pivot to remote instruction on what would otherwise be a day of school closure due to weather and non-weather emergencies, including but not limited to snow, floods, tornadoes, and building fires. This is at the district option and must be consistent with district instructional and reopening plans.

This pilot may result in additional flexibility for the district to utilize additional instructional days, beyond the minimum 180-day requirement, for other purposes. Such changes must be consistent with all existing laws and regulations, including the minimum instructional hour requirement, as well as any collective bargaining agreement.

To count such day as a day of instruction, the district must provide remote instruction to all enrolled students, including those who may have been scheduled to attend in person instruction on that day. Such remote instruction must be of the same quality and rigor as instruction provided on a typical day and consistent with district instructional plans.

Districts electing to exercise this option are in session and must continue to provide transportation and other required services to charter and nonpublic schools on such days if such schools remain open. The required provision of these services may not be waived, and the efficacy and safety of providing them should be a consideration when opting to convert an in-person instructional day to remote instruction due to a weather or other emergency. Information about transportation services under these conditions may be found at:

- [Information about transportation services for charter schools](#)
- [Information about transportation services for nonpublic schools](#)

This pilot is in effect through the 2021-22 school year, after which the Department will review the outcome of the pilot in determining whether to continue this flexibility in subsequent school years.