



**Presents**  
**KY-SPIN's Waiver Update for Families**  
**during CORONAVIRUS (COVID19)**  
**& Other COVID-19 Updates**  
**Webinar 3/31/20**

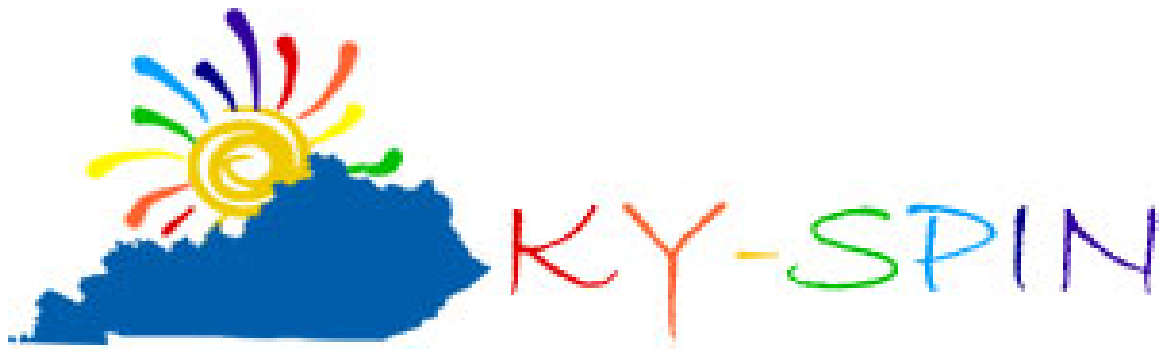
# **KY-SPIN**

## **(Special Parent Involvement Network)**

### **Parent Training & Information (PTI)**

### **Center**

Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education under IDEA since 1988 when Kentucky first received a PTI. KY-SPIN Parent Center provides training, information and support for children and youth with all types of disabilities (birth through 26 years old), their parents, families, and professionals.



We do NOT:  
Act as Attorneys

We DO:



- ♥ Empower Families to Effectively Advocate for their Children
- ♥ Provide peer support to help families access needed information and resources
- ♥ Lend a listening ear



“The key to success for all our children during this unprecedented time is to work in partnership as we all go down this uncharted territory together!”  
Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN

# Welcome to our speakers today!



- ▶ Pam Smith, Division Director – Department for Medicaid Services – Division of Community Alternatives
- ▶ Alisha Clark – Department for Medicaid Services – Division of Community Alternatives

In the event that there are periods of time when people are asked to stay at home, will the DSP or PDS employees be permitted to provide in-home care to 1915(c) waiver participants?

Yes, if the service being provided by the DSP or PDS employee is emergent, meaning that without the service the participant would be placed in danger or the person would lose functioning that could never be restored, the care may be provided. The DSP or PDS employee should not provide care if he/she has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or who is displaying symptoms.



# Can a PDS employee be permitted to work overtime to reduce gaps in service caused by the COVID-19 state of emergency?

Yes, overtime is allowed during the COVID-19 state of emergency, if necessary, to address the health, safety and welfare of the 1915(c) HCBS participant. The need for overtime should first be discussed with the case managers/support broker/service advisor, who is responsible to document this need and update the emergency person-centered service plan. Please note that if there has not been a change in the participant's overall health and community based status and no disruptions in services as a result of the COVID-19 virus, increasing services should not be required. DMS will be conducting retrospective reviews of service increases to ensure these were implemented for appropriate, emergency-related reasons.



Can the approval process for hiring immediate family members as PDS employees be temporarily waived to deal with service disruptions, such as the closure of ADHCs and ADTs, and staffing shortages caused by the state of emergency?

Yes, DMS is temporarily waiving the additional screening and approval process to hire immediate family members as PDS employees. Potential employees must still initiate a background check and other screenings, however, they can begin providing services while waiting for the results. If the results of a background check or other screening make the employee ineligible, services will be allowed to continue until an alternative employee is found. The only exception is in cases where the employee poses immediate jeopardy to the health, safety, and/or welfare of the participant or has a substantiated finding of past abuse, neglect or exploitation or a violent felony.





Can provider agencies or PDS employers use background checks on an employee that were completed by a different provider agency or PDS employer?

Yes, this is allowed during the state of emergency.



How should the support broker/service advisor add new PDS employees during the state of emergency?

New PDS employees can be added in the comments in MWMA if they are being added due to the state of emergency.



# Will there be a grace period on the annual requirements for maintaining PDS employee eligibility?

Yes, DMS will temporarily allow services to be initiated before confirmation of certain eligibility requirements such as tuberculosis risk assessments and screenings, CPR/first aid and other trainings, and providing a copy of driver's licenses. The case manager/support broker/service advisor is responsible to ensure it is documented that these requirements have not been met due to the state of emergency. These requirements will be reinstated at the end of the emergency so, if possible, employees continue to work to confirm these pre-employment requirements.

# Can a PDS employee who is unable to work due to the COVID-19 state of emergency file for unemployment?

- ▶ PDS employees may file for unemployment if they meet the eligibility requirements. This can be done through the Kentucky Career Center website at [kcc.ky.gov](http://kcc.ky.gov).
- ▶ The website is available from 7:00 a.m. EST to 7:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST on Sundays.
- ▶ To reduce strain on the system, individuals are asked to file claims on a certain day of the week based on the first letter of their last name.
  - ▶ Sunday: A-D
  - ▶ Monday: E-H
  - ▶ Tuesday: I-L
  - ▶ Wednesday: M-P
  - ▶ Thursday: Q-U
  - ▶ Friday: V-Z Or if you missed your day.

PDS employees can also reach out to the support broker or service advisor for additional information on whether they have paid into unemployment.

If a newly hired agency employee has not worked in the field, can they complete required trainings while working?

Yes, this is allowed during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The only trainings DMS is requiring be completed during the state of emergency are ones related to the health, safety and welfare of waiver participants, such as medication administration.



# Questions ??



## Sources

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services - COVID 19 Frequently Asked Questions for Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers [COVID 19 FAQ Document](#)



# Important COVID-19 Education Updates related to Education

- ▶ OSERS (@ED\_Sped\_Rehab) tweeted on Fri, Mar 27, 2020: #OSERS Rehabilitation Services Administration [released initial Q&As to address title I of WIOA](#) concerns as state vocational rehabilitation agencies seek to provide continuity of operations for individuals with disabilities during the #COVID19 pandemic.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services' Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) issues this Questions and Answers document to outline its plans for implementing performance accountability provisions under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies seek to provide continuity of operations for individuals with disabilities in the current COVID-19 environment.

In the near future, RSA plans to issue additional Questions and Answers related to the VR program and State Supported Employment Services program to respond to other questions that State VR agencies have recently asked.





# KY Dept of Education (KDE): Kevin C. Brown, Interim Education Commissioner March 27, 2020 [Letter to Families](#)

Our focus at KDE is now three-fold - Educate, Feed and Support.

- ▶ **Educate**: “Our first priority is ensuring your children still receive their education through the use of Kentucky’s Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Program. [All 172 of our state’s school districts](#) are now using this program, which allows education to continue when school buildings are closed. Before this health crisis arose, we only had 83 districts signed up to use NTI, which traditionally had been used for bad weather or flu outbreaks. Because NTI is new to many of our districts, KDE already is working to provide as much assistance as possible to ensure that the work your children are doing is designed to further their education in meaningful ways.”
- ▶ **Feed**: “Another one of our priorities is Feed, which means assisting districts in making sure children continue to be fed breakfast and lunch when school buildings are closed. In Kentucky, where almost 400,000 public school students were considered economically disadvantaged during the 2018-2019 school year, these meals matter.”
- ▶ **Support**: “Finally, we’re also prioritizing Support for Kentucky’s teachers and school staff. KDE staff is working closely with the governor’s office, the legislature and the U.S. Department of Education to make sure no students, educators, schools or districts are hurt by these school closures. This involves trying to answer many important questions that don’t have an answer yet.”

- ▶ **KY: Governor Andy Beshear** (@GovAndyBeshear) tweeted Wed, Mar 25, 2020: Yesterday I signed SB 177 allowing school districts the ability to request an unlimited number of non-traditional instruction days for remote learning during #COVID19. We must still prioritize education for the future of our children. #TeamKentucky #TogetherKy @KyDeptofEd
- ▶ **KY Dept of Education: Kevin C. Brown**, Interim Education Commissioner (@kycommissioner) tweeted on Thu, Mar 26, 2020: I just sent this [email](#) to all Kentucky superintendents, re: Senate Bill 177 and Statewide Blanket Approval of Additional @MyNTIkY Days:

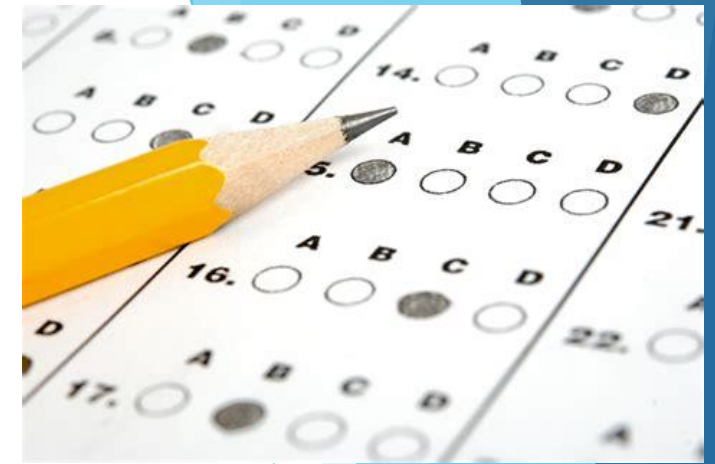


I, Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner of Education, per SB 177 (Enacted 2020), do hereby grant each Kentucky School District with an approved Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Plan (either an already existing 2019-2020 Regular NTI Application or a 2020 Temporary Emergency NTI Plan for COVID-19) the use of an additional 30 NTI Days for the COVID-19 Emergency from the date of March 16, 2020 and through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. These additional days are above the 10 days originally granted in your approved regular 2019-2020 or Temporary Emergency Non-Traditional Instruction Application. Per SB 177, I reserve the right to grant additional NTI days to districts should that become necessary as the COVID-19 Emergency situation evolves.

/s/Kevin C. Brown

# Kentucky to apply for testing waiver from U.S. Department of Education -

## March 20, 2020:



“U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced March 20 that students impacted by school closures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. The Kentucky Department of Education will submit a waiver by the close of business on Monday, March 23.

“We are very clear eyed about the fact that students and families, teachers and school leaders across America are facing unprecedented disruption in their learning and their lives,” DeVos said in a conference call March 20.....

“We’ve been promised a quick and expedited review and approval process from USED,” Kentucky Interim Education Commissioner Kevin C. Brown said. “We have every reason to believe that our waiver request to be relieved of various federal assessment, accountability and reporting requirements will be granted.”

# Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) FEDERAL COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE

## Funds for K-12 and postsecondary education

“A summary of education funding in the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, which includes \$30.75 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund. Includes estimations of funding by SREB state for elementary and secondary education relief. ....

### **The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund**

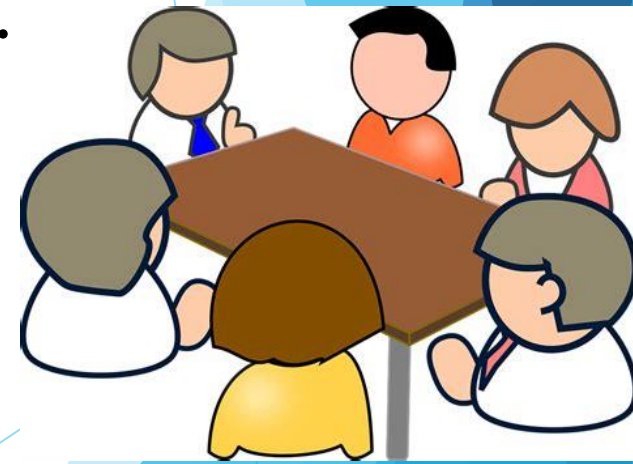
The Education Stabilization Fund includes just under \$13.5 billion (43.9% of the total) allocated to states based on the proportion of funding each state received under Part A of Title 1 of ESEA in the most recent fiscal year. The U.S. Secretary of Education is required to issue a notice inviting applications for the funding within 30 days of enactment of the bill, and to approve or reject applications within 30 days of receipt. States would allocate at least 90% of funds they receive to local education agencies (or charters that are LEAs) according to their proportion of Title 1 funding. Those funds could be used for the following purposes:

- ▶ Any activity authorized by ESEA, including Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, **IDEA**, Adult Education and Family Literacy, Perkins and McKinney-Vento programs
- ▶ LEA coordination with state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus
- ▶ Resources for principals and other school leaders to address the needs of their individual schools
- ▶ Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- ▶ Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies
- ▶ Staff training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- ▶ Supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities
- ▶ Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including providing meals for students, providing technology for on-line learning, providing guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements, and ensuring continuity of education services
- ▶ Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students to aid in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment”

From our webinar Last week: [KY-SPIN's Educating Children with Disabilities during CORONAVIRUS \(COVID19\) Webinar 3-25-20](#):

“.....Additionally, IEP Teams are not required to meet in person while schools are closed. If an evaluation of a student with a disability requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens. Evaluations and re-evaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student's parent or legal guardian consents. These same principles apply to similar activities conducted by appropriate personnel for a student with a disability who has a plan developed under Section 504, or who is being evaluated under Section 504.....”

**U.S. Department of Education :** [Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Schools While Protecting the Civil Rights of Students](#) (March 16, 2020)





# Online Professional Development Opportunities March 2020

Developed by the Kentucky Special Education Cooperatives

Topics include: Assistive Technology, Autism, Behavior, Due Process, Literacy, Math, Mental Health, Paraprofessionals, and Trauma.

## Online Professional Development Opportunities

March 2020

Developed by the Kentucky Special Education Cooperatives



This document includes an extensive list of free online professional learning resources, such as virtual training modules and webinars. The resources have been categorized into a wide range of topics in order to include relevant information for all staff in a school system. Topics include assistive technology, autism, behavior, due process, literacy, math, mental health, paraprofessionals, and trauma. For guidance on which resources might be most beneficial for specific staff populations (e.g., paraprofessionals, new teachers, bus drivers), school districts can reach out to staff at their local [educational cooperative](#).

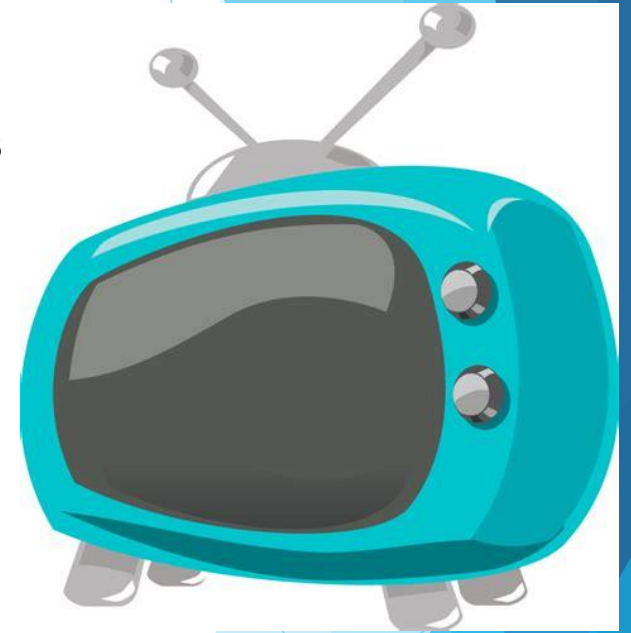
# KET launched new broadcast schedule this week and free learn-at-home resources for students

## **New broadcast lineup serving school-aged children**

Beginning **Monday, March 30**, the normal weekday program schedule on KET's primary channel, from 7/6 am to 5/4 pm, will now air a special lineup of programming covering a wide range of content for students of all ages, including PBS programs that focus on content areas of social studies, math, science and English language arts. The programs will broadcast over the air through the network's 16 transmitters located throughout the state and be accessible for children without internet access. Viewers can visit [KET.org/learnathome](https://ket.org/learnathome) for a weekly schedule.

## **[KET.org/learnathome](https://ket.org/learnathome) features free content for PreK-third grade, grades 4-8, and grades 9-12**

K-12 students and educators have free access to an online portal of educational resources that can support learning and lessons at home. The material, aligned to state standards, is flexible and can serve as both supplemental and fundamental, based on need. Lesson plans and curriculum materials related to the PBS content are available to parents and teachers. Registration is not required.





# Other COVID-19 Updates:

- ▶ **KY: Governor Andy Beshear** (@GovAndyBeshear) tweeted on Thu, Mar 26, 2020: I made an [executive order suspending all evictions](#) in the Commonwealth due to #COVID19.
- ▶ **Gov. Beshear Urges Kentuckians to Remain Vigilant on Social Distancing** *Governor says crowding at golf courses, stores threatens further spread of COVID-19*

## Gov. Beshear Urges Kentuckians to Remain Vigilant on Social Distancing

"We can't allow any crowds in Kentucky right now. We are going to have to shut golf courses and other places down where social distancing cannot be followed. People must maintain social distancing at state parks, at basketball courts, in grocery stores and home improvement stores. When we go to places we have to make sure we do it in a responsible way."

- GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR

[governor.ky.gov](http://governor.ky.gov)



EXECUTIVE ORDER: KY Gov. Andy Beshear is restricting travel to other states as COVID-19 continues to spread. This does not include people who have to leave the state for work.

Governor Andy Beshear (@GovAndyBeshear) tweeted at Mon, Mar 30, 2020: UPDATE: If you are applying for #Medicaid and/or SNAP, please use the correct contact information below.

Medicaid only: 1-855-459-6328

SNAP & Medicaid: 1-855-306-8959

## Apply for Medicaid First

### Kentuckians may apply:

- For Medicaid only, by calling the Kentucky Healthcare customer service line at 1-855-459-6328, contacting an application assister through the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange website at [healthbenefitexchange.ky.gov](https://healthbenefitexchange.ky.gov) or by accessing the benefind website at [benefind.ky.gov](https://benefind.ky.gov).
- For SNAP and Medicaid, by calling the DCBS call center at 1-855-306-8959 or accessing the benefind website at [benefind.ky.gov](https://benefind.ky.gov).



KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services

[kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov)

TEAM  
KENTUCKY



# CARES Act Rebates: Most Frequently Asked Questions

## Congressman John Yarmuth

### Excerpt:

authorized January 1, 2018 or later.

#### **How large are the rebates?**

The amount of the rebate depends on family size. The payment is \$1,200 for each adult individual (\$2,400 for joint filers), and \$500 per qualifying child under age 17. The advance payment of rebates is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income to the extent a taxpayer's income exceeds \$150,000 for a joint filer, \$112,500 for a head of household filer, and \$75,000 for anyone else (including single filers).

#### **Do rebates need to be repaid?**

No, rebates do not need to be repaid. If an individual experienced an income loss in 2020 or if they have an increase in family size, they may be able to claim an additional credit of the difference when the individual files their 2020 tax federal income tax return in 2021.

#### **How will rebates be delivered?**

It depends. Rebates will be delivered automatically—by the IRS—to most Americans who file individual federal income tax returns. When available, electronic direct deposit will be used in place of mailing a physical check.

#### **Many individuals don't need to file a tax return. Are non-filers eligible for rebates?**

Yes. There is no earned income requirement to be eligible for a rebate, but non-filers may need to take additional steps to receive their rebates. The Social Security Administration will share information for Social Security beneficiaries (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) with the IRS to help ensure these beneficiaries receive an automatic advance payment. The IRS will conduct a public awareness campaign to reach other non-filers and provide them with information on how they can access rebates.



# KY VOICES for Health Helpful Handouts:

- ▶ [Help for Kentuckians During COVID-19](#) If you are already enrolled in Medicaid, SNAP, KTAP, or CCAP, your benefits have been automatically extended by 3 months.
- ▶ [WHAT KENTUCKIANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 Updated March 25, 2020](#) What is COVID-19? COVID-19 -- also known as the novel coronavirus -- is a new respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus thought to spread from person-to-person through tiny droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, BUT many people with the coronavirus have no symptoms or may be contagious for up to two weeks before feeling sick.



There is a helpline that is there for anyone to call who needs someone to speak/text with dealing COVID-19, our mental health is just as important as our physical health:

# Disaster Distress Helpline



**1-800-985-5990**



**TEXT: “TalkWithUs” to 66746**



**[DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov](https://DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov)**

# Questions??



(800) 525-7746  
(502) 937-6894  
spininc@kyspin.com  
[www.kyspin.com](http://www.kyspin.com)

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the webinar.

Thank you!