

CAL Policy One Take

An Update on Policy Support for Distance Learning

May 7, 2020

- ▶ The mission of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is to promote language learning and cultural understanding by serving as a trusted source for research, resources, and policy analysis.

White House Response to COVID-19:

CARES Act

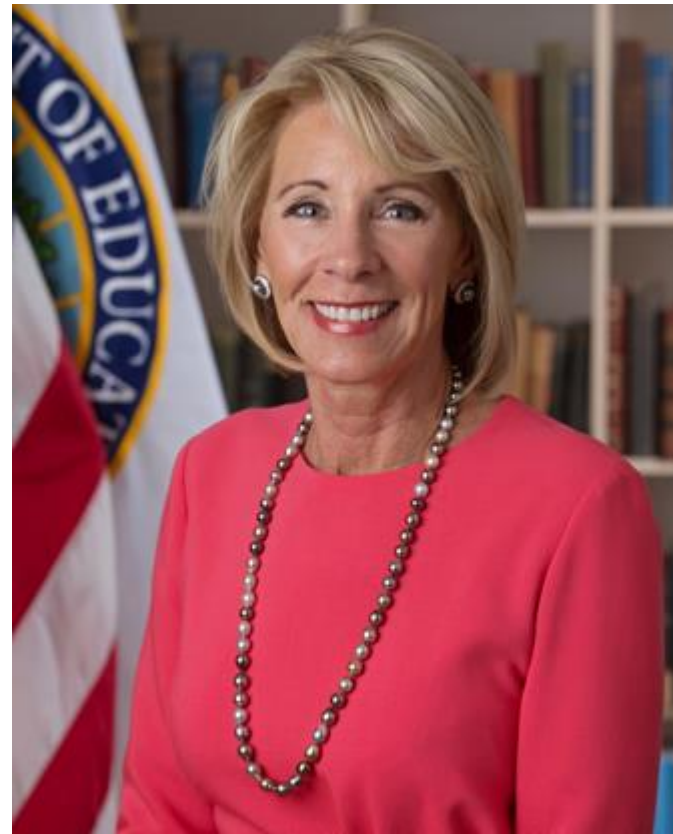
On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act which is a \$2 trillion package of assistance.

The CARES Act includes \$30.75 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund.



USED Response: ESSER Fund

- ▶ On April 23, 2020, U.S Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, announced the ESSER Fund for States to **support continued learning for K-12 students whose education has been disrupted by the corona virus.**
- ▶ “Now is the time to rethink education and get creative with individual student needs.”



ESSER: Use of Funds

- ❖ Education leaders have the flexibility to use the funds for immediate needs to include:
 - ❖ Tools and resources for distance education;
 - ❖ More flexibility for professional development
 - ❖ Ensuring student health and safety; and
 - ❖ Developing and implementing plans for the next school year.
- ❖ Local leaders are empowered with the flexibility to determine how to use their ESSER Funds as long as they comply with federal education laws.

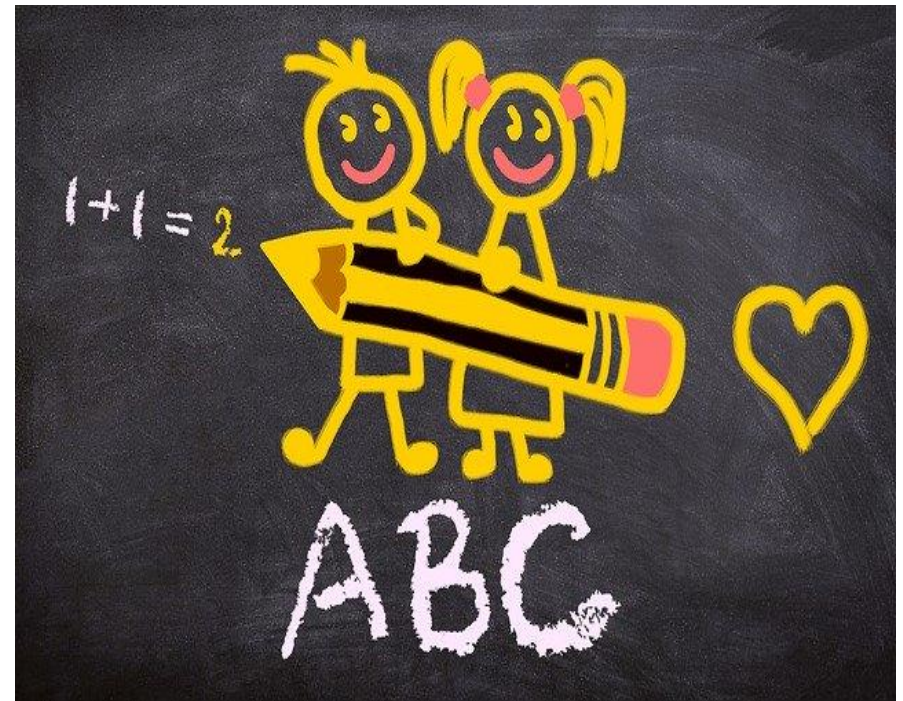
USED Fact Sheet: Office of Civil Rights

- ▶ Ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act **should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance instruction.**

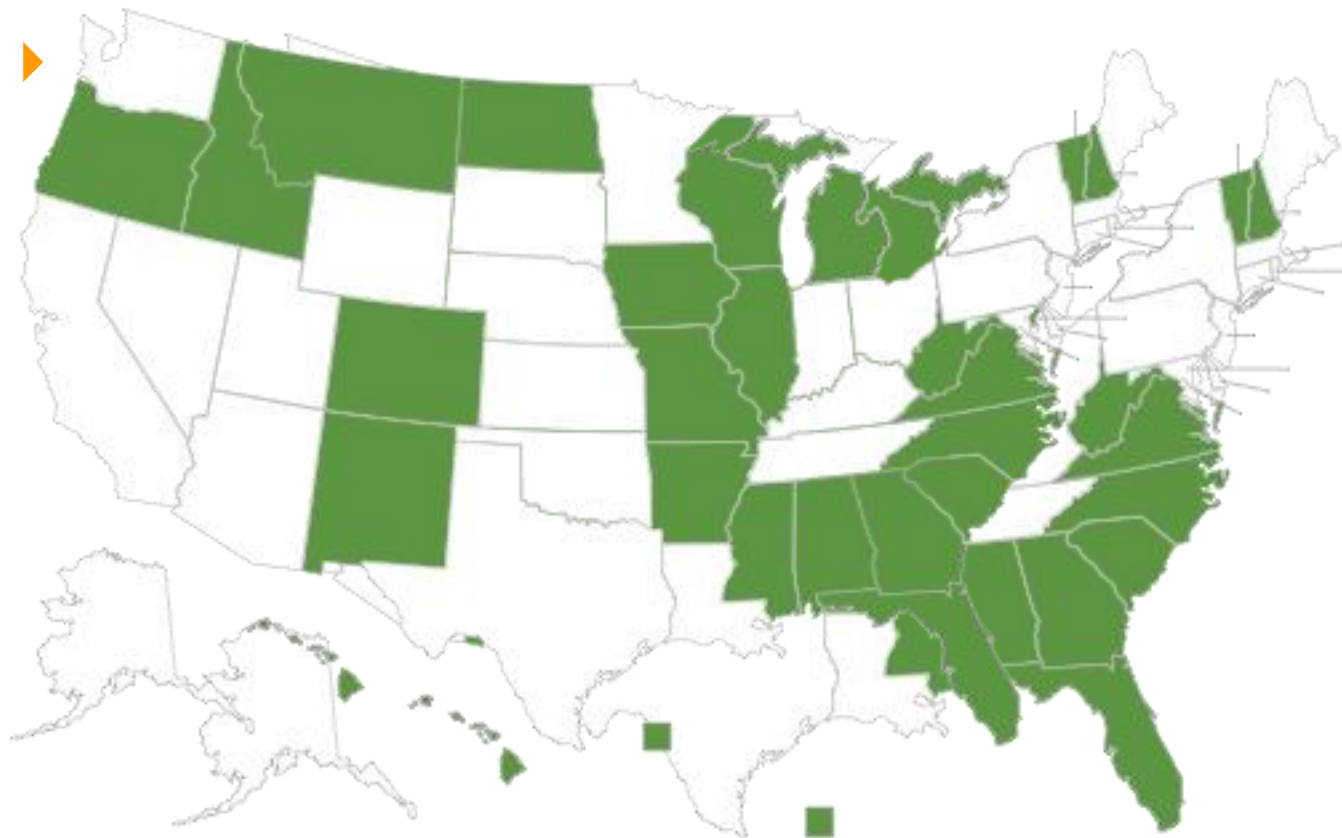
USED Office of Civil Rights Supplemental Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in K-12 education while serving children with disabilities, March 21, 2020

What does this flexibility mean for you?

- ▶ What are the most pressing needs in your State, school district and school?



States with State Virtual Schools



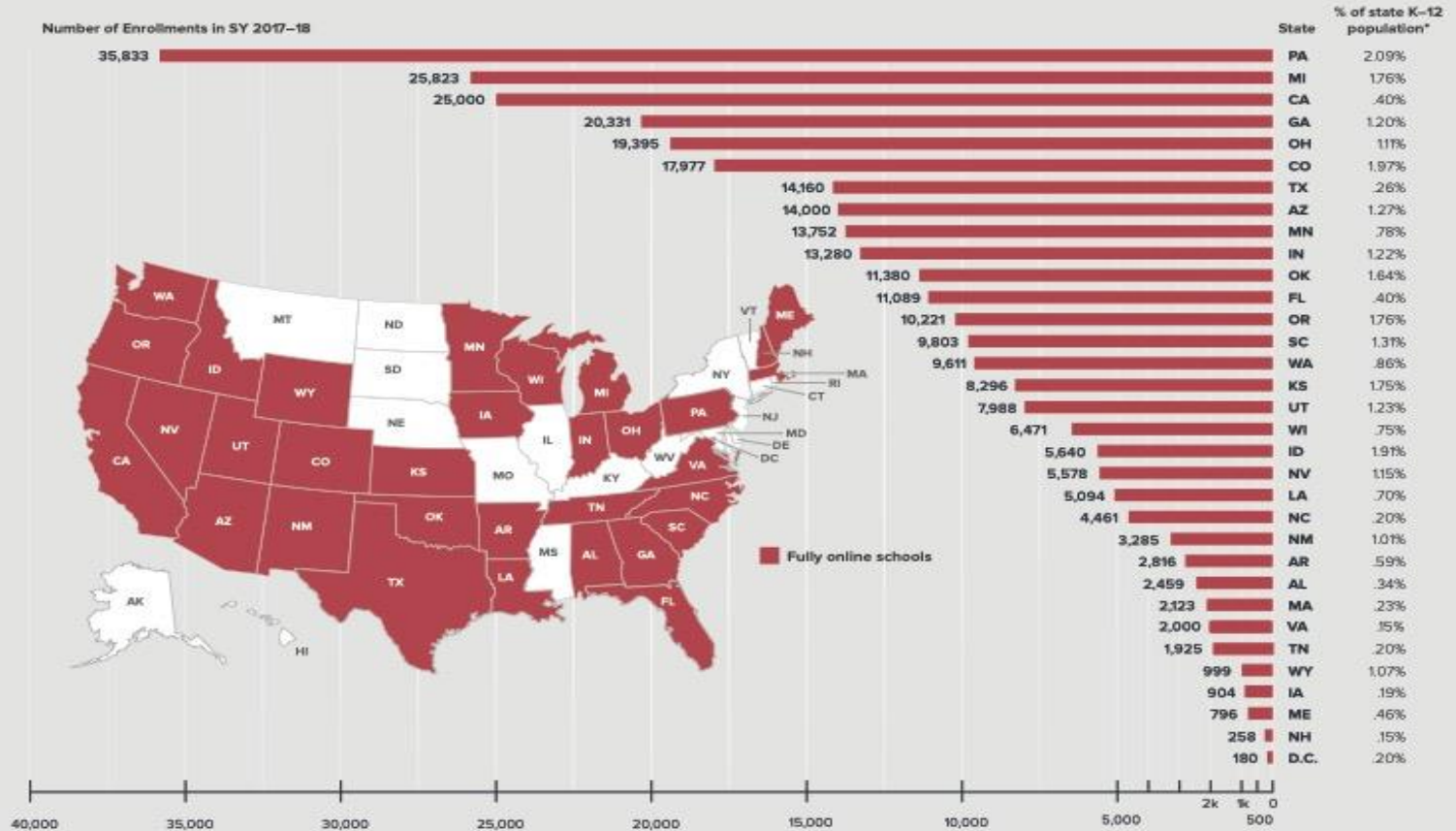
A Keeping Pace with K-12 Learning Report: SNAPSHOT 2019: A review of K-12 online, blended and digital learning

2019 – States with Fully Online Schools

2019

States with Statewide Fully Online Schools

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF STUDENT ENROLLMENTS BY STATE AND PERCENTAGE OF STATE'S K-12 POPULATION



Top Policy Concerns

- Equity
 - Resources outside of school
 - Funding
- Broadband Access
 - Uneven availability
- Emotional Support
 - School as a safe haven
 - Trauma

What is happening in your State?

What are your key policy concerns?



- ▶ [United States Department of Education](#)
 - COVID-19 resources

- ▶ [Digital Learning Collaborative](#)
 - Policy Briefs

- ▶ [CAP: Quality Education Series: Managing the Transition to Virtual Schooling](#)
 - Webinars

- ▶ [Center for Applied Linguistics](#)
 - Free Instructional Resources for English Learners and Multilingual Learners
- ▶ [Colorin Colorado](#)
 - Free bilingual resources for teachers, students and parents
- ▶ [NWEA](#)
 - Free digital resources

Reading Resources

- ▶ **Nature at your fingertips:** [Ranger Rick](#), is offering all its content for free -- outdoor activities, guides.
- ▶ **Daily Journeys:** [Scholastic](#) is offering cross-curricular reading and learning projects. Each one is built around a meaningful story or video.
- ▶ **Doodling live:** [Mo Willems](#), author of the award-winning Pigeon and Elephant and Piggie children's books, is doodling on a livestream every weekday at 1 pm EST.
- ▶ **Explore the world:** [National Geographic](#) lets you use an incredible library of educational content.
- ▶ **Famous actors read to kids:** [Storyline Online](#) is an Emmy-nominated children's literacy program featuring imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors.
- ▶ **Free Library:** [Learning A-Z](#) is offering its Raz-Kids online library and Headsprout reading courses free for the next 90 days.

Math Resources

- ▶ **If you don't know where to start:** If you have no idea where to begin, [Khan Academy](#) is the place to be. Their [YouTube channel](#) is another great resource. Khan Academy has content in Spanish [on their website](#) and [on YouTube](#), too.
- ▶ **Access math textbooks:** [Big Ideas Math](#) is giving students free access to all its K–12 math textbooks.
- ▶ **MathTube:** [Math & Learning 4 Kids](#) has a variety of lessons divided by grade level. [PatrickJMT](#) will work wonders if you want to dive into school calculus concepts. If you have a student fascinated by the theories of math, [Numberphile](#) will keep them hooked.
- ▶ **Even more math:** [Be a Learning Hero](#) has an excellent index of free math (and reading!) content that is divided by grade level.

Multiple Subjects

- ▶ **Science, social studies, SEL, and more:** [Newsela](#) is free through the end of the school year and chock-full of valuable content, including on [social-emotional learning \(SEL\)](#), which can come in especially handy during these trying times, and [articles in Spanish](#).
- ▶ **Make learning a hoot:** Kahoot! games make learning fun while still giving teachers the information they need to tailor their instruction. They're offering all their premium distance learning tools for free.

Questions?



- ▶ Roberta Miceli
Senior Director, Language and
Education
[Center for Applied Linguistics](#)
rmiceli@cal.org
202-288-4770