

*The following questions were received through the seven RAEN centers prior to the Statewide Program Manager's Meeting on August 11, 2020. Many questions were similar or the same so those were combined for your convenience. Additional questions were posed during the web meeting, those appear in a separate document.*

**Questions for the AEPP Office regarding AEPP reopening:**

1. How will things work in the fall? If we open and then close because of a spike, can students continue with virtual instruction?

If programs need to revert back to remote learning, they will seek approval from NYSED prior to providing remote learning.

2. Are there any proposed changes to the EPE rates? Since classes need to be smaller due to social distancing, we will not be getting as many students in per hour but need to pay our teachers the same.

EPE rates are issued by the state aid office and are calculated based on real estate tax basis, local health situations do not impact those calculations.

3. Can we keep students in our distance learning classes if there are people who choose not to come into our building? I know we had approval through COVID emergency guidelines. Will there have to be new trainings?

- All programs must consider how and when they can move back to face to face instruction as was agreed to in your contracts with NYSED.
- For WIOA and ALE, there is no remote learning in those contracts so programs must seek NYSED permission to continue providing remote learning opportunities. Documentation will be a key element.
- All assessments must be face to face, there is no provision under adult education for remote assessments.

4. Any talk of expanding ESL through Zoom? Crossroads café is not a great option for the very low and the very high. We'd love to be able to teach with other texts.

Remote learning is indeed a challenge for low level students whether ESL or ABE. NYSED is interested in piloting remote learning opportunities for all level students once all programming reverts to traditional contracted settings. An application process will be available in November, 2020.

5. What paperwork and accountability will be required? I am getting new SIFs for distance learning students in the 20-21 school year but of course there are no tests until students come back in. What is mandatory for getting into master files?

The electronic ISRF's are required for any student served in FY20/21, new or existing. All assessment score documents must be added to the student's file as well as the ADA statement signed by the student.

6. What can we expect in terms of accountability for the WIOA funded programs? Our target of 100 students per year is much more difficult to reach while we work virtually.

As indicated in the COVID-19 field memo, performance will be proportionate in FY20/21 as it was in FY19/20. This will be done on an individual program basis, there is no general guidance.

7. If all of our outside sites remain closed to us for traditional classes we obviously will continue to offer distance learning. We may however be able to offer one or two in person classes in our career tech centers. Does that mean that the COVID rules are lifted then for all students even though serving two in person classes would only encompass very small percent of our students?

It is up to the local programs to assess the possibilities within their own communities. The Governor has issued permission for all schools and BOCES to open for face to face instruction. Programs may need to relocate classes in different agencies than may have been prevalent in the past. Some programs have reported they are moving to homeless shelters, food banks, and community centers. A program must show effort in seeking an opportunity to provide face to face instruction adhering to the safety measures outlined by the Governor's office.

8. Will there be changes to the ASISTS database to reflect the new ALE partnerships and changes in lead agencies?

Yes, those changes have already begun. All new ALE consortiums will be identified as one agency in ASISTS.

9. When should we begin to enter data?

Clear direction was sent out from every RAEN office, check with your local RAEN for that information. Regular updates and communication is sent out via the local RAEN office.

10. If the health crisis is prolonged, can a online class for ESL be introduced, cleared with state ed, and EPE billable?

There is no plan currently for this type of programming. NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities once programs return to traditional settings. Guidelines for expectations will be shared at that time. An application for pilots process will be available in November.

11. We returned to in person instruction when our region entered Phase 4 (July 1<sup>st</sup>). Since then, we have noticed a sharp decline in both new intakes and attendance. Will SED consider a hybrid model of instruction (some distance/some in person) to accommodate more students?

NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities once programs return to traditional settings. Guidelines for expectations and a structured application for piloting will be released in November. However programs have always been able to provide homework assignments to their students, no attendance is recorded for the time spent on homework.

12. Does SED plan to relax accountability requirements (attendance, measurable skill gain, etc.) for FY20-21 due to the lingering disruption caused by the pandemic.

Performance measures will be proportionate in FY20/21.

13. Can a student over 21 be enrolled in Crossroads Café (EPE) and be enrolled in a synchronous ESL program offered via Google Meet? A student under 21 would also be active in this WIOA class.

Programs should be focused on planning for a safe and careful return to face to face programming. Students enrolled under an EPE funded Distance Education program must adhere to the guidelines provided in the web training for COVID-19. This does not include additional synchronous classes.

14. When setting up an Instructional Offering in ASISTS, do we use an I (for DL) or a C (for class) when we offer a synchronous class via Google Meet to a WIOA student?

These asynchronous and synchronous classes **are not** recorded in ASISTS. These data are captured on state issued attendance documents and are uploaded to the accountability site. All attendance documents for WIOA and ALE programming can be found on the accountability website or on any RAEN website. <https://adult-education-accountability.org/>

15. We are offering a modified summer course schedule. It differs from what was documented on the NYSED WIOA and ALE Adult Literacy Coronavirus Online Learning Planning tool. Our understanding is that programs should modify that chart for what is being offered in the summer? And once we figure out what will be offered in September, does it need to be modified again?

Yes, any and all changes to the Distance Learning plan must be updated to the document on record with NYSED. Each time the plan is altered in any way, the new information must be added and the plan emailed to either [WIOA@nysed.gov](mailto:WIOA@nysed.gov) or [ALE@nysed.gov](mailto:ALE@nysed.gov) at which time it will be reviewed again by the AEPP Regional.

16. Many Adult Education programs are not provided in a k-12 building. They are in other, multi-use buildings, such as One Stops, churches and co-located with other entities. Where can adult education providers get guidance regarding re-opening in other types of buildings?

There is no general guidance regarding off site locations. Programs must follow the protocol from each location they operate within. In addition, there are guidelines available on the Governor's reopening website. <https://forward.ny.gov/metrics-guide-reopening-new-york>

17. Would the ESL portion of IELCE offerings be reported as WIOA attendance, regardless of age? The students would meet synchronously via Google Meet and develop skills relevant to the workplace and their training project.

Yes, this would be reported under WIOA attendance on the Accountability website.

19. Would WIOA Corrections offerings be reported as WIOA attendance, regardless of age? The students would work on packets of materials outlined in the grant proposal. Teachers would have limited tutoring opportunities with students as available in correctional facilities.

Yes, this would be reported under WIOA attendance on the Accountability website.

*Classes should be either carried over from FY2019/2020 (the program decides if they would like to do this in ASISTS) or new classes that will represent face to face attendance must be created (even if they are not used immediately)*

20. This came from an e-mail received on 7/30/20 via the RAEN and SED. Why is SED asking programs to create face-to-face classes in ASISTS, if they are not being used immediately?

The opportunity to roll classes over from the previous fiscal year is limited in the software, it is customarily at this time of year that programs would do that or they would be creating new classes in ASISTS. The expectation is that all programs will eventually be providing face to face instruction per their NYSED contractual agreement. Those classes must be created in ASISTS to match the proposal made under each funding source.

21. Do you still want classes coded as “COV” for FY21 ?

For EPE funded programs that are continuing to provide Distance Education that includes synchronous tutoring sessions each week must code all their EPE funded classes as “COVID”.

22. During the program managers meeting on 6/9/2020, we were told to think and prepare about reopening during Phase 4. We were also told that there would be NO memo from SED stating when we could return, because everything would be based upon when regions entered phase 4. Then on 7/31, “Local agencies make their individual decisions on moving ahead, which trumps NYSED policy. If local agencies are moving to face to face they could include adult education.” How does a local plan trump NYS policy? What reopening plan/process does AEPP and NYSED what us to follow? We are not Higher Ed and we are not K-12?

Local programs that are affiliated with a school district or BOCES must follow the direction in those agencies for reopening.

23. Are programs required to keep Student Assignment sheets on file? Students do not always send them back because they don't have to write anything on them.

Yes, all assignment and attendance documents must be kept by the supporting program for a period of seven years.

24. In regards to record keeping for EPE DL, what does the program have to keep on file as “proof” that the student completed the packet?

For GRASP, SMART, and Crossroad’s Café, the program must keep in electronic files the following documentation for attendance purposes:

- Teacher Assignment Log
- Teacher Curriculum Log
- Student Time Worked

25. Since students under 21 are now able to complete a MFT, how do you want completed packets documented?

Under WIOA and ALE, students under the age of 21 who do not have a diploma and who are not in school and not required to be in school have always been able to access the Fast Track GRASP Math Packets. For WIOA and ALE funded programs, attendance is recorded on the electronic attendance forms found on the Accountability site and should be uploaded by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month of achievement. Directions for completing these attendance documents were provided in the Distance Education web training hosted by NYSED. Regardless of which funding source, the program must have a signed (signed by the teacher) Appendix 6 on record for every completed packet.

26. Some of our staff are immunocompromised (and probably need to work remotely until there is a vaccine) Can we continue DL classes if it makes sense for our students and staff?

Please refer to response from Question #3.

27. Can the NYSED provide DL training about the platforms that we are most using- Zoom, Google Classroom, phone apps?

These are proprietary platforms. NYSED allows programs to choose those that are best suited to students and staff. NYSED does not endorse any one in particular.

28. If a program is currently performing a blended program model that includes face to face, synchronous and asynchronous instruction, can we use the combined hours of instruction to determine when a students should be TABE tested or do we use only the face to face instruction time that is entered into ASISTS?

The traditional (face to face) time captured in ASISTS will be used to determine post testing.

29. If a student is waiting for a diploma through the BOR Diploma Waiver - what program year will that outcome be recorded in ASISTS? Will it be recorded in the current year 2020-2021 - since it is likely the diploma will be issued after the start of this program year? If

so - and this student does not have a pre-TABE to carry over and we have been unable to TABE due to the inability and/or limited testing capacity - will they still be data matched and counted? Does the 12 hour ASISTS requirement still apply for a carryover student to count if they are waiting on a diploma through the BOR Waiver.

Yes, for a diploma to count under NRS guidelines, the process has not changed. Students with 12 or more contact hours and a valid pre-test will be included if the diploma is earned in that same fiscal year.

30. When will vocational programs, previously supported by EPE, be supported again?

CTE courses will continue to be supported by EPE funding when the courses meet the specifications under which they were approved with a CIP code and are delivered face to face.

31. Will we be allowed to continue virtual programming?

Programs cannot remain virtual indefinitely. All regions of NY state have entered Phase 4 of the Governor's reopening plan. Adult literacy programs need to plan for a gradual opening of face to face instruction, the priority should be providing state required assessments and instructional opportunities for the lowest level learners they had previously served. The program's COVID-19 Distance Learning Plan must be updated each time the plan changes and emailed to [WIOA@nysed.gov](mailto:WIOA@nysed.gov), [EPE@nysed.gov](mailto:EPE@nysed.gov), [ALE@nysed.gov](mailto:ALE@nysed.gov)

32. What is the plan for our program's opening in September?

See response for Question #31

33. Will the State allow for remote instruction, even if things open up (hopefully soon)? We don't use our own space for classes. It is unlikely that our sites will let us use their space anytime soon (as they are trying to limit the amount of people that they are allowing in their space. There are also many people whom are still uncomfortable being indoors with other people.

It is up to the local programs to assess the possibilities within their own communities. The Governor has issued permission for all schools and BOCES to open for face to face instruction. Programs may need to relocate classes in different agencies than may have been prevalent in the past. Some programs have reported they are moving to homeless shelters, food banks, and community centers. A program must show effort in seeking an opportunity to provide face to face instruction adhering to the safety measures outlined by the Governor's office.

34. OCTAE has said that they will allow blended classes and testing. Will NYSED show a similar openness to distance learning and blended models?

NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities which would include blended classes, once programs return to traditional settings. A substantive application for piloting Distance Education will be released in November. OCTAE requires each state to review curricula

and provide a justification for proxy hours counted toward NRS reporting. Once back to traditional settings, programs may choose to complete the application process that will be available in November. However programs have always been able to provide homework assignments to their students; homework could include virtual support when students are at home, this strategy is certainly an option programs may choose however, until a pilot is proposed and approved by NYSED, no attendance is recorded for the time spent on homework.

35. As an aid to record keeping and good communication while working off site, may ASISTS be used as a tool to register, enroll and track students? We understand that the information entered won't be official data for reporting and attendance will still be submitted separately.

NYSED has required all demographic data to be entered into ASISTS as was indicated during the distance learning web trainings. Programs were encouraged to use the electronic ISRF along with electronic signatures from new students. As we have now entered a new fiscal year, the expectation is that all students will now have a new ISRF, again, these documents are electronic so even those students that are still learning remotely can sign and return the document. All that data will be entered into the ASISTS data system for accurate record keeping. All face to face assessment and in-person class contact hours must also be entered into ASISTS. EPE programs have also been instructed on how to enter the distance education home study programs. Directions shared in the web training prevail for any synchronous or asynchronous learning under both WIOA and ALE. All such virtual attendance must be recorded in the Accountability website.

36. How do you recommend programs obtain electronic signatures from students? We have had significant difficulty sending the fillable PDFs to students.

The fillable ISRF can be emailed to students or texted as an attachment. It must be downloaded before the student signs it electronically. If students are unable to manage that process, the document can be printed and mailed to the student with a postage paid return envelope.

37. What is the purpose of staff attending stop gap training?

The stop gate training for WIOA and ALE funded programs is to assure that directions for submitting attendance under the COVID-19 Temporary Guidance issued by the NYS Director of Adult Education. The stop gate training for EPE programs is to temporarily certify teachers in school districts and BOCES to provide the GRASP, SMART, or Crossroad's Café programs.

38. How come NYSED has not had conversations with individual programs to inform their decisions?

NYSED has requested that all programs submit their COVID-19 Distance Learning Plan, the plans are reviewed by the AEPP Regional staff, if needed, the staff will have discussions with program administrators. Plans must be updated each time a change is made.

39. Will the State allow for remote testing? (There are still many people whom are uncomfortable sharing indoor space)? OCTAE has said that they are working with test makers to adapt tests such as the Best Plus (source: OCTAE Cheryl Kennan's webinar on

5/22/20: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WJ4cGiwDwY>) to be given remotely. How is NYSED considering online assessment options for when face-to-face operations are not feasible?

AEPP is not allowing any remote testing at this time. Priority should be given to administering assessments when face to face operations are gradually restored.

40. Are case managers required to meet with students?

Case managers are required to provide support to students. Face to face interactions are recorded in ASISTS, all virtual contact is recorded on the Accountability website.

41. Who do we notify or speak to regarding our plan to not return to face to face classes for some time to come?

Same response as Question # 38.

42. If we will be resuming our classes in- person, what safety guidelines must be followed?

Programs must follow the requirements of their lead organizations and be consistent with the Governor's reopening plan.

43. Will the State consider allowing classes to meet for less than 6 hours per week? There are many people whom are very interested in remote learning, but cannot commit to 6 hours per week, given all the other challenges going on at home due during these unprecedented times? Adult education providers are not occupational health and safety experts. What will specific guidelines be to deem face-to-face spaces to be safe for instruction and operations of the program?

NYSED has not limited remote learning in terms of hours per week. All attendance for remote learning under WIOA and ALE per the COVID-19 Temporary Guidelines described in the March 20<sup>th</sup> memo and is recorded on electronic documents uploaded to the Accountability site. Programs must follow the requirements of their lead organizations and be consistent with the Governor's reopening plan.

44. Will the ADA requirement of 15 people in a class still be in effect?

NYSED has no such requirement, the number of students served is consistent with contractual agreements with each program. Regardless of these contractual agreements, the March 20<sup>th</sup> memo made clear there was no required amount.

45. Is there a way for students to submit electronic ISRF forms where they can feel comfortable sharing sensitive information such as social security numbers?



In the COVID Distance Learning web training it was made clear that students should not be providing their social security numbers electronically.

46. Our program runs in a NYCHA community center, sharing foot traffic with seniors living in the senior housing above the community center. If our agency does not have any control over outfitting our spaces to be safer, minimizing risks of exposures, how are programs expected to proceed?

Same response as Question #33

47. How will the program be evaluated during this new fiscal year?

While programs gradually transition to traditional programming, all performance measures will be prorated and proportionate.

48. Will the 14 hours of RAEN PD continue to be waived? This was very helpful in the spring. Teachers did put in an incredible amount of time to learn about effective distance learning.

While programs gradually transition to traditional programming, the 14 hours of RAEN PD will be prorated.

49. Our organization informed us that we will be virtual until Spring 2021 if not later. Who do I inform?

NYSED has requested that all programs submit their COVID-19 Distance Learning Plan, the plans are reviewed by the AEPP Regional staff, if needed; the staff will have discussions with program administrators. Plans must be updated each time a change is made.

50. Will our program be penalized in the new fiscal year if we can't show outcomes and gains due to the fact that we are not allowed to Best Plus our students on line?

When programs gradually transition to face to face instruction, the priority is to assess students. Until that happens, the March 20<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Temporary Guidance will be in effect.

51. We understand there's a lot of pressure to get students back into face-to-face classes. For our adult students and staff who rely on their children's school schedules and secured childcare, who live with high-risk family members or loved ones, need to take public transportation, and/or do not have health insurance, is it worth the risk to require them to come in-person to class several times a week - or even once a week?

Programs are being asked to gradually transition to face to face instruction. In the meantime, the March 20<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Temporary Guidance will be in effect.

52. Are we allowed to conduct virtual testing?

AEPP is not supporting virtual testing at this time.

53. Many organizations will not be returning to in person classes in NYC for quite some time. Do we continue to submit to the accountability website?

Yes, all virtual attendance (synchronous or asynchronous) will continue to be reported on the appropriate documents and uploaded to the Accountability site.

54. Is there any other material available to use for ESL in addition to Crossroads Cafe that is billable?

No, there is no other material currently approved for EPE funded programs for ESL students other than Crossroad's Café.

55. Why are these sessions one way only with no live Q&A?

The program manager meetings include a large number of participants, in excess of 300; it is not possible to open the lines and manage the extreme amount of background noise. Responses to all questions are shared widely.

56. Do we have to pre-test rollover students that didn't get a post-test completed in FY 20 because of COVID-19 guidelines?

Direction for setting up data in FY2020/2021 was distributed via the RAEN offices to all program managers. If you did not receive this information, please contact your RAEN director.

57. Do we have to have rollover students from FY20 sign an ISRF for FY21?

All students active in FY2020/2021 must have a new ISRF and during the COVID-19 pause, this can be signed electronically.

58. Can we continue with distance learning for some of our students as a new part of regular programming? Some students have thrived in this learning environment. Attendance has improved for those students with transportation barriers or work schedules that conflicted with local libraries hours of operation.

NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities once programs return to traditional settings. Guidelines for expectations will be shared with a substantive application process in November.

59. Will NYSED allow some flexibility with assessments? In person assessment is preferred, but for cases, due to the pandemic, that in person assessment is not possible, can online assessment tools through Kahoot and other platforms be allowed. Is there a possibility of online TABE or BEST Plus remote testing? If so, are there funds available for technology to allow remote proctoring?

All assessments must be face to face, there is no provision under adult education for remote assessments.

60. Will there be any leniency in the accountability requirements for FY21 due to the pandemic? It will be difficult for programs to meet enrollment targets and performance benchmarks due to COVID-19 guidelines. At this time we still don't have any of our tutoring sites available for our students and tutors. As you are aware most Literacy Programs provide one to one instruction at the local libraries throughout their county. Our libraries are not open to the public yet for in person services (just curb side pick-up). The information we are receiving at this time is that when they do re-open they will not be allowing use of their study rooms or use of space for tutoring. Many don't even have the room to allow for proper social distancing of 6 feet. Our tutors are all volunteers, many of which are seniors and would prefer to keep providing remote instruction until things are safer. We are providing PPE to all of our volunteers and students that need it, but some are still hesitant to provide face to face instruction when we do have facilities available to meet at. In regards to employment goals, as you are aware due to the pandemic, unemployment is at all time high record numbers and many businesses have closed and will not be re-opening. We realize that jobs are available but these are unprecedented times and employment goals are even more difficult to reach at this time. In regards to HSE attainment, right now TASC Test Centers are still not open and they are working on their plans of re-opening but we don't know when and how it will all work.

Performance measures will be prorated in FY20/21.

61. At some point soon, students will have exhausted all 26 episodes of Crossroads Cafe. What next?

There are several types of work text and photo text material available for each episode.

62. Will NYSED ever allow us to offer online tutoring for more than 3 hours per week?

EPE funded Distance Education home study programs are allowed to offer 3 hours each week of tutoring. During the COVID-19 Temporary guidance, the 3 hours was allowed to be a synchronous activity. As programs move back to face to face instruction, the 3 hours will move back to face to face as well.

63. Many students have expressed reluctance to return to in-person class even when the shutdown is lifted. Is there a timeline for piloting/implementing online instruction?

NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities once programs return to traditional settings. A substantive application process will be released by NYSED in November. Guidelines for expectations will be shared at that time.

64. Since our region has entered into Phase 4 we are wondering if we keep people enrolled in the COVID home study programs until they have completed pre-testing and

then transfer them to the regular home study? What is going to be the cut off for not testing since we are open or how long can we keep some enrolled if we cannot get them to come in to test?

As programs gradually move toward face to face instruction, providing face to face assessments will be the priority.

65. Is New York looking at Virtual TABE Testing?

No, not at this time.

66. In ASISTS, does each different Home Study program need to have its own designated Tutoring class or can there just be one tutoring class for home study? For example, does it have to be SMARTTutor and GRASPtutor vs HSTutor?

A tutorial is available in the Resource Bank in ASISTS that provides the step by step process for setting up classes during the COVID-19 Temporary Guidance period. Separate classes must be set up for each home study program and each teacher providing the tutoring sessions.

67. Can you please go over the difference between EPE eligible and not eligible Case Management.

This question can best be answered by referring to the EPE manual for a description of eligible case management, it has not changed during the pandemic.

68. As part of the Fast Track on the EPE application there is Outreach how is that supposed to be Tracked?

This question should be sent to the EPE mailbox via email to [EPE@nysed.gov](mailto:EPE@nysed.gov).

69. When will GRASP, SMART, Crossroads Café Trainings be offered?

EPE Distance Education training will be offered through the RAEN centers as soon as possible.

70. Will hybrid models including classroom instruction paired with distance learning enrollment be allowed (co-enrollment in classroom and distance learning classes)?

NYSED is interested in piloting distance learning opportunities once programs return to traditional settings. A substantive application process will be released by NYSED in November. Guidelines for expectations will be shared at that time.

71. Will NRS (EPE/WIOA) guidance differ from AHSEP guidance?

The AEPP-ACCES office does not oversee AHSEP, there is no correlation or coordination of EPE/WIOA policy and AHSEP.

72. Will programs be able to modify their EPE applications to remove the necessity of sign in sheets, leaving the responsibility for tracking/recording attendance to the teacher? If so, what will the process be?

Under EPE current guidelines, students are not required to sign in or out, it is the responsibility of the teacher to document the time in and time out. Teachers subsequently must sign each attendance document attesting its authenticity and accuracy.

73. Is there any other material available to use for ESL in addition to Crossroads Cafe that is billable?

No, there is no other material currently approved for EPE funded programs for ESL students other than Crossroad's Café.

### **Fiscal questions:**

1. We heard that the first claim is only being paid at 80%. When will the remaining 20% come in? What can we expect with the final 19-20 claim?

2. What information can you provide regarding payments overdue to agencies? Also- There is a rumor that our 19-20 payments will be cut short by 20%, and that we might also receive an additional 20% cut in FY20-21. Can you please address?

3. What is the status of the new ALE contracts?

4. ALE programs are struggling financially, as some have not yet received 3rdQ payments billed last spring, and none have received 4thQ payments or finals billed closer to year end. What is the status of payments for last year's ALE contract?

5. Not all ALE funded programs have received their "proposed" contracts for the year that began July 1, 2020, and none have received fully enacted contracts for the current year. What is the status of ALE contracts? Will they be enacted for the amount won in the procurement process, or will amounts be cut? If cut, by how much? When can programs expect their fully enacted contracts?

6. If we start having in-person classes, will expenses for added cleaning staff and PPE for staff and students, and physical modifications of classrooms be allowed?

There has not yet been an announcement from the New York State Division of Budget (DOB) regarding possible FY21 reductions. [Budget Bulletin B-1223](#) directs agencies to hold all discretionary local aid grants and awards until further notice and to submit essential and statutory payments to DOB for their approval. Payments are being made as they receive approval from DOB. For some State-funded programs, payments have been made at 80% of the original amount, with the remaining 20% on hold at this time.

3. When will programs be notified of the EPE application status including approved budget?

EPE allocation letters will be going out in early September.

**Meant for HSE office, we have forwarded the following questions to their attention:**

1. Can AEPP work with HSE Testing office to come up with some indication in the HSE portal that indicates that students who were submitted for a waiver are noted as having received a diploma? or what will be the confirmation to us that they were approved for the COVID waiver?
2. Is the TASC waiver still in effect? For example- If we have a student who enroll as “new” for FY 21, and they have passed 3 or more TASC subtests, and they complete DL packets and attend class, are they still eligible for the TASC waiver?
3. Why aren't programs or program managers being told who will receive diploma based off the TASC waiver process? NYSED just needs to do is add a column that says “Diploma Issued” and a Y/N. Then they can just e-mail it back to the program.
4. Once TASC Test Centers open for testing in our area - are we still allowed to send in students on a Cohort 2 Waiver list? What if I send a new student to a test and they pass 3 subjects ..... do I now send them in on a diploma waiver with a teacher attestation if we feel like they'd pass .... or do they have to take the TASC Test again to try to pass the other two subjects?
5. For students needing proof of their Regents we will submit the Attachment R with a photo ID to their High School as described on the DOE website. Do we also need to send the Photo ID and Attachment R for each candidate along with the Covid-19 Diploma Spreadsheet and Data Attestation memo the [HSETC@nysed.gov](mailto:HSETC@nysed.gov)?
6. For students who tell us they have passed three TASC/GED tests, we do NOT have to collect proof of those passing scores. Is that correct?
7. For students who take the TASC test when testing centers reopen this fall/spring and fail but pass three or more subjects, can they qualify for the HSE Waiver too?
8. We have submitted TASC Waiver for several students. How will we know if they are accepted or if you need additional information?
9. These TASC Waiver students are asking when they will receive their diploma. What is the timeline that we should tell them?
10. We assist students in completing Attachment Rs and then getting them to the school district. From there the Attachment R is submitted directly to SED with the TASC waiver documentation. Will we be notified if the Attachment R is accepted or rejected?

11. If the Attachment R was previously submitted (pre-covid), is there any way for the TASC program to know if students have received an exemption based on the anticipated Attachment R (to prevent duplicate submissions)?

12. Will there be a re-evaluation of TASC testing reimbursement when testing resumes if guidance requires smaller testing sessions?

13. When does the teacher attestation pathway end? (students with credit on 3 or 4 parts of the TASC receiving a diploma with a teacher attestation)