

# PreKindergarten Education and Continuity of Learning

Revised: April 13, 2020

## Background

In his [directive issued on March 26, 2020](#), Governor Scott ordered that schools for students in grades PreK-12 shall remain dismissed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year unless otherwise ordered by the Governor. He further ordered schools to have continuity of learning plans for remote learning implemented on or before Monday, April 13, 2020.

In [subsequent guidance](#) issued by the Secretary, Continuity of Learning was defined to mean districts will be required to provide education services and related supports to all of their students remotely so that student learning and academic progress is achieved as if schools had remained open.

## PreK and Continuity of Learning (COL) - Social and Emotional Support

It is clear from both the Governor's directive and the Secretary's guidance that COL is meant to include all students including PreK students. It is very important, however, to consider the unique developmental and learning needs of young students when designing COL and remote learning activities.

Primarily, it is important to acknowledge that this is an emergency situation and a priority should be placed on the social and emotional well being of these students. Academic and learning expectations should be tempered by an acknowledgement that remote learning activities for these students are likely to be more useful from a socio-emotional perspective than an academic one.

## PreK Learning Resources

The AOE Early Education Team is iteratively supporting schools with developmentally appropriate learning resources and materials to implement remote learning for PreK students including those students entitled to early childhood special education. School districts should be prepared to support all of their PreK students under their COL plans, including those resident students who might have been served previously by prequalified private PreK education providers prior to the COVID-19 emergency.

Resources provided by the AOE will be aligned to Vermont's Early Learning Standards and reference TSGOLD. Schools are not required to complete TSGOLD spring checkpoints during this emergency period, however.

## **Act 166 Tuition Payments**

Districts have been directed to maintain Act 166 tuition payments to private providers during this emergency as a part of a larger economic stability measure. These payments should continue under COL regardless if a private provider is providing PreK services or not, or if a child remains enrolled in the program.