

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 305, 3602 and 3609-a.

New subdivisions (k) and (l) shall be added to section 175.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to read as follows:

(k) All claims submitted by school districts in accordance with section 175.10 of this Part for the payment of State aid for the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter shall include the total number of instructional hours, non-instructional hours, and session days for each grade level in each school within the school district, and a completed calendar worksheet in a format prescribed by the commissioner for each such school within the school district.

(l) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, certain school districts that have demonstrated a safety issue and/or other scheduling challenges that prevented them from complying with the annual instructional hour requirement set forth in subdivision (c) of this section in the 2018-2019 school year may apply to the Commissioner by November 15, 2019 for a single waiver for up to four school years from such requirement for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and/or 2021-2022 school years; provided that such school district meets the following requirements:

(i) the school district must be in session for at least 180 school days in each school year, which shall include superintendent's conference days authorized under this section;

(ii) the school district must attest that the annual instructional hours for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years will be at least equal to the annual instructional hours

provided in the 2017-2018 school year and that for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years the school district will demonstrate that the total number of its schools that are in compliance with the instructional hour requirements will increase annually by increments of no less than one-third, resulting in full compliance in the 2022-2023 school year;

(iii) the school district must describe the safety and/or scheduling challenges that prevented the school district from complying with such requirements; and

(iv) the school district must provide a plan to the Commissioner as to how it will comply with the instructional hour requirement in the 2022-2023 school year for all schools in the district.

(2) The Commissioner will post a list of school districts with approved waivers for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and/or 2021-2022 school years on the Department's website.