

**May a contracted or mandated provider of education services (e.g., district, ESC, community school, etc.) continue to provide educational services to school-age children residing in the following settings?**

- a) A residential group home or other residential group arrangement (including those that may be court placed)**
- b) A local or county juvenile detention facility**

The ordered school-building closure does not mean that residential facilities that are caring for school-age children nor juvenile detention facilities must close. These facilities are serving students primarily for other reasons (not primarily educational), and are not schools per se. At the same time, in the interest of slowing any spread of disease, extreme caution should be exercised to preserve and protect the health and safety of students and staff in these facilities, as well as educators and the community. Education providers and facility operators should evaluate these situations considering the following **three principles**:

- 1.** Is the nature of the activity essential?
- 2.** Can the activity be done virtually?
- 3.** If there is no other choice, then can the activity be done safely? This means that individuals are separated by distance and not congregating in close proximity, and that the health of participants is protected.

Consulting the local health department is advisable and encouraged.

(Note that juvenile and adult correctional facilities were separately ordered to restrict access to their facilities to “personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of such facilities.”)

Just as with other students, a good faith effort to provide continuity of service to students in these facilities would align with the Governor’s stated intent that “schools should work to provide education through alternate means.” Consequently, education providers should collaborate with facility operators to identify alternate means to provide educational services to the extent practicable. These could include a “blizzard bag” approach, remote learning, distance learning options, closed-circuit TV, mail, etc. As much as possible, sending educators to be physically present with students in such settings should be avoided.