

Preliminary Guidelines Set for Students to Return to School

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - The Pennsylvania Department of Education announced new guidelines this week for elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools to reopen in the near future. K-12 schools can begin reopening as early as July, and colleges, trade schools and other post-secondary schools can begin offering classes again as soon as Friday (June 5).

Schools will be required to develop health and safety plans that reflect the unique needs

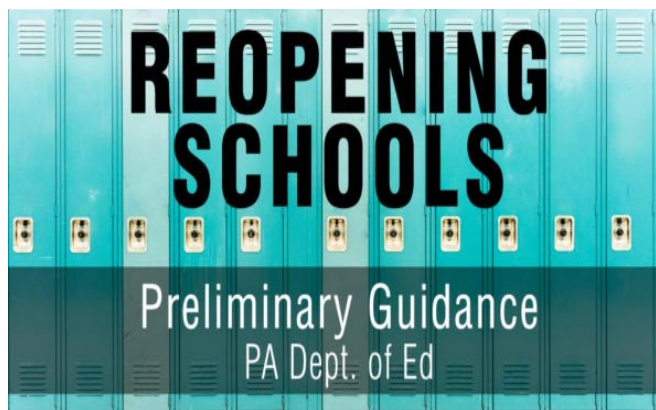
of local districts, including steps to protect students and staff at higher risk of severe illness, training for staff and faculty, monitoring students and staff for symptoms, developing policies and hygiene practices to protect against infection, and ensuring proper distancing of desks and seating.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has also offered interim guidance for schools and child care to open safely. go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.

Guidance Available for Parents With Children Returning to Child Care

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - As the governor's COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease and more Pennsylvanians prepare to get back to work, new guidance is available for parents with children who will be returning to child care facilities.



All facilities are required to follow guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control specifically for child

care centers. Under the guidance, all staff are required to wear masks, but children and youth are not required to do so. Masks are encouraged, but not required, for older

youth in indoor or crowded settings. Additional requirements are also included for health screenings, sanitation, and notification if any staff member or child tests positive for COVID-19.

If you or someone you know is heading back to work and needs help finding child care options, help is available here <https://www>.

PA Child Care

Frequently Asked COVID-19 Questions
PA Human Services Dept.

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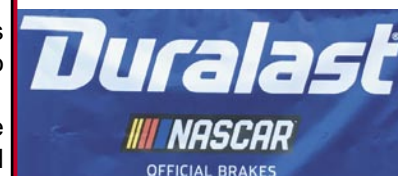
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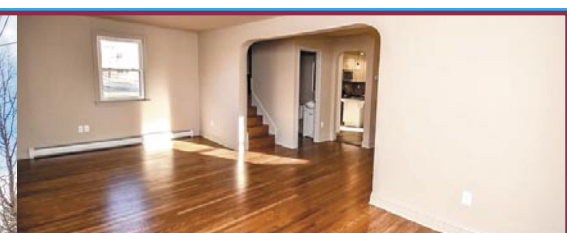
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Da Vinci Science Center Awarded Competitive Grant to Support STEM Engagement During COVID-19 Pandemic

By Allison Dolan

ALLENTOWN — The Da Vinci Science Center is one of 20 science centers and museums around the country selected to receive \$5,000 in support of STEM engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) and made possible by the Voya Foundation.

This flexible program is designed to support science and technology centers and museums to continue to serve their missions and community by developing, enhancing, or adapting programs or resources, helping continue STEM learning as children, families, and educators adapt to a new normal. Twenty institutions were selected to receive funding, from among 96 science centers and museums that submitted applications.

“We are incredibly grateful to ASTC and the Voya Foundation for this funding,” said Lin Erickson, Da Vinci Science Center Executive Director and CEO. “We at Da Vinci Science Center believe that science is the solution to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are committed to delivering on our mission to bring science to life and lives to science for students and families across the region.”

With support from the Voya Foundation, Da Vinci Science Center is creating new ways for its audiences to continue their science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) explorations at home. Recently published web pages include our “Learn It, Try It, Share It!” Science at Home activities and scientifically accurate COVID-19 resources for families and teachers. In response to community requests for resources that can be sent home to make it easier for students without internet to participate, the Science Center has created Grab-n-Go STEM Kits for students and families. A Virtual Science Fair Showcase will allow students whose events were cancelled to still share their work with the community, and get feedback from STEM professionals who will comment on their projects. Finally, traditional summer programs have been redesigned to create online delivery options that include STEM materials and



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live interactions with professional STEM educators.

“We know the important role Da Vinci Science Center’s STEM programs play in our communities because of the success of Voya STEM Futures, one of our signature programs,” said Angela Harrell, SVP, Chief Diversity and Corporate Responsibility Officer and President, Voya Foundation. “We’re proud that our rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic can keep our children learning during this unprecedented time.”

“We are thankful that Voya recognized a need for continued exploration and learning opportunities—even when science centers and museums are closed—and stepped forward to help them keep doing what they do best,” said Cristin Dorgelo, President and CEO of ASTC. “Community-based organizations like Da Vinci Science Center are well-positioned to help meet the need for increased understanding of—and engagement with—science and technology among all people, which is needed now more than ever.”

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