March 11, 2020

Good Morning,

I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify our position regarding student participation in our BOCES programs. I hope you find this information helpful, especially as it relates to recent questions that have surfaced with the coronavirus outbreak.

PNW BOCES is adhering to the joint COVID-19 guidance issued by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health, in addition to all guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, and state and local health departments regarding ways to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. At the same time, it is our legal obligation to provide instruction to all students enrolled in our programs. For this reason, we are not turning away students whose home schools have been closed for reasons surrounding COVID-19, unless a student has been placed under quarantine or isolation by the county Department of Health.

A student may attend classes, unless the student:

- has tested positive for COVID-19 (and thus placed in isolation by the county Department of Health);
- has been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (and thereby under voluntary or mandatory quarantine, as applicable);
- is symptomatic of the virus; or
- is otherwise ill with a sickness that requires exclusion from school.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, and continue to adapt our protocols and policies, consistent with guidance and best practices. Should the guidance change, we will make adjustments accordingly and keep our community apprised of developments as they arise.

Sincerely,

James M. Ryan, Ed.D.
District Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer