

Overview for Families

What is a Regional Enrichment Center (REC)?

A REC is a safe, enriching place created by the New York City Department of Education to provide childcare for first responders who are critical to the COVID-19 response efforts.

The approximately 100 RECs around the city each offer remote instruction; three hot meals a day; and childcare; along with art, music, and physical education. RECs include early childcare centers in addition to K–12 sites and will be available in every school district.

The first tier of outreach will be to health care providers, first responders, and key transit workers. As we move forward, we will seek to include additional essential service providers and children in shelters.

In the best interest of our medically fragile students, we do not recommend they attend RECs, and are working with the Department of Health to ensure they have continuous medical services.

When will RECs open?

RECs will begin operation on Monday, March 23, 2020.

How can I enroll my child?

The DOE is reaching out to frontline workers, including first responders and health care workers; transit workers; sanitation workers; City agency essential staff; and partner organizations/agencies to help enroll their children through an easily accessible online form. A response will be generated back to the family with the offered site, and we will prioritize geographical proximity to their residence.

Does my child need to bring anything with them to the RECs?

Your child should bring a device (e.g., laptop, tablet, or phone) that they can use for remote instruction, if possible.

What will a typical day look like?

Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Tentative Program schedule:

- Morning: Remote Learning Opportunities
- Afternoon:
 - ~ Arts
 - ~ Physical Education and Sports (3 p.m.– 6 p.m.)

How will you keep RECs safe?

The health and safety of students and staff members remains our highest priority. All social distancing protocols will be followed at RECs, including maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and limiting classrooms to fewer than 9 students. Anyone who is sick should stay home. Sites will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Who will staff these sites?

RECs are operated by dedicated DOE staff, as well as staff from our partners at dozens of community-based organizations. We are grateful to the numerous DOE employees who have already offered to help staff these sites.

Additional Questions?

Visit schools.nyc.gov/recs for more information.