



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: The Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education

PURPOSE: To examine the impact COVID-19 had on higher education institutions, students, faculty and staff during the Spring 2020 semester and will have on the upcoming 2020-21 academic year.

Tuesday
July 28, 2020
11:00 AM

Web Link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

On March 7, 2020, a state of emergency was declared in New York State due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Institutions of higher education across the state sent students home and transitioned from in-person classroom instruction to distance learning. The closure of college campuses due to COVID-19 has resulted in a loss of access to libraries, lecture halls, academic labs, and other educational tools. Layoffs and job losses resulting from COVID-19 have also severely impacted students and their families financially, putting students' ability to complete their education into question.

In accordance with Federal and State guidelines, institutions are currently formulating reopening plans for the upcoming academic year. As institutions plan to reopen, they are dealing with the difficulty of planning for students, faculty and staff to return to campus safely, while at the same time managing an unknown fiscal situation and potentially steep enrollment declines.

The Committees seek to receive input from stakeholders across the State on the academic and financial impact COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on institutions of higher education as it relates to enrollment, affordability, and the transition to distance learning. Additionally, the Committees welcome testimony on the reopening steps colleges and universities are taking to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff for the 2020-21 academic year.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Legislature, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Toby Ann Stavisky
Senator
Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Deborah J. Glick
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Higher Education

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chairs. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be emailed to:

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I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____