CONSIDERATIONS

During these unprecedented times of isolation and uncertainty, we would like to work with districts to help them understand how Education Law 2-d and Part 121 of the Commissioner's Regulations apply to providing instruction using online tools with students.

You might be wondering, "What is OK to use?" There is not a simple answer to that question. Using technology platforms such as Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex, and Zoom are proving to be effective ways for teachers to stay connected with students and with one another - but we as a school community must make an effort to protect student information and staff data, even during these uncertain times.
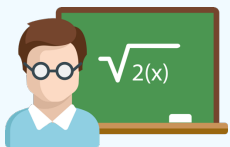
Below are considerations for school districts, teachers, and families when using these tools:

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Consider using your local BOCES service, rather than tackling data privacy on your own.
- Consider using those online tools you were already using before this crisis - rather than introducing something totally new into your district.
- Consider how the Child Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) may limit student instruction with online tools for students under the age of 13 years old.
- Consider what should or should not be recorded in an online instructional session.
- Consider how to limit access to the online instructional sessions.
- Avoid using "free" educational applications.

FOR TEACHERS

- Only use the tools that your district has approved - do not use free tools independently that are not approved by your district.
- Do not share your or students' Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in online settings.
- Examples of PII are described on subsequent pages of this document.

FOR FAMILIES

- Be sure the tools your student is using to complete assignments and communicate with teachers are approved by your school district.
- It's always a good idea to monitor your child's Internet use.
- If multiple family members are using the same devices throughout the day, be sure to log out between different family members.