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**Memorandum**

**To:** Smart Scholars Early College High School (SS-ECHS) Cohort 5 Awardees

**From:** Christopher Fernando, Ph.D., Supervisor for Higher Education Programs

**Date:** May 1, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 Guidance Regarding SS-ECHS Cohort 5 Planning Period

In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis and our effort to give professionals and students the best possible learning and work-related experiences in Smart Scholars Early College High School (SS-ECHS), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is extending the planning period for SS-ECHS Cohort 5 awardees.

As you know, the original planning period was to begin on January 1, 2020 and **end on August 31, 2020**. The end date of this planning period will extend beyond August 31, 2020, but NYSED is not yet able to identify the exact date. This extension is granted using the amounts already awarded for the planning year; no additional grant funds are attached to this extension.

If your project planning has not been set back by the public health crisis and your project would like to begin implementation on September 1, 2020, please contact your NYSED liaison by May 15, 2020.

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