



BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

5 YEAR PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Suffolk RIC Region 2026-2031 Plan

Last updated: October 30, 2025



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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are required by law and regulation to prepare a regional plan for providing technology services to the supervisory district. Plans must address the requirements outlined in Education Law 1950(4)(c) and the related Part 115.1 of the Commissioner's Regulations. In the Suffolk Regional Information Center (RIC) region, the Suffolk RIC, under the direction of the District Superintendent's, is responsible for facilitating the completion of this region's 793 Plan.

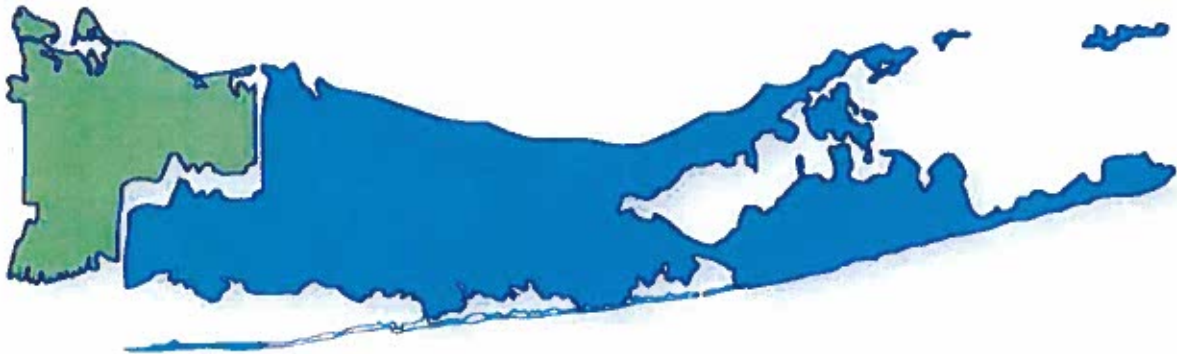
SUFFOLK RIC REGION:

- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Western Suffolk BOCES

793 PLAN GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

- Darlene Roces, Suffolk RIC Director, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Dr. Jasmin Varela, District Superintendent, Committee Chairperson, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- April E. Poprilo, District Superintendent, Western Suffolk BOCES
- James Stucchio, Associate Superintendent for Management Services, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Kate Davern, Director of Educational Support Services, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Renee Allen, Senior Divisional Administrator, Western Suffolk BOCES
- Heather Ciccone, Program Administrator, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Carl Jeanniton, Network/Systems Technical Manager, Western Suffolk BOCES
- Penny Notarnicola, Network/Systems Technical Manager, Western Suffolk BOCES

Thank you to the Governance committee for their leadership and ongoing commitment to this effort.



Western Suffolk BOCES	Eastern Suffolk BOCES
18 districts	51 districts

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING PROCESS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SECTION 1

The two BOCES regions served by the Suffolk Regional Information Center use a collaborative governance structure to prioritize needs, make decisions, and monitor progress. The primary Governance Committee establishes overall regional direction, strategic alignment, resource optimization and performance measurement. They meet formally at least once annually and at various meetings throughout the year.

At Eastern Suffolk BOCES, this Plan is presented at an annual Strategic Planning meeting, in support of the Agency's ongoing Middle States approval. This Plan is in direct alignment with the Agency's Strategic Plan, specifically Action Plan III: Educational Support Services and Action Plan IV: Regional Technology Services.

Together with Western Suffolk BOCES, this Plan will be presented at the fall Suffolk Technology Directors' meeting to gather additional feedback with the expectation of final feedback and agreement being obtained at the fall Suffolk RIC Advisory Committee meeting.

The input provided by the BOCES' and RIC representatives reflects comments and suggestions from the 69 school districts supported across the region, and from meetings and interactions with various other stakeholder groups such as the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Middle States Reaccreditation Planning Team, higher education partners, school boards and superintendents' associations, and other various working partners.

The Suffolk RIC collects information through meetings with various K-12 stakeholder groups through organized constituent meetings that occur on a regular basis throughout each school year. These constituent meetings and individual district meetings include, but are not limited to, Suffolk Technology Directors meetings, RIC Advisory Council meetings, District Data Coordinator meetings, Suffolk County District Clerk meetings, Model Schools meetings, product user group meetings, and Suffolk School Business Officials meetings. Comments and suggestions are recorded, assessed and then prioritized into the RIC portion of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Strategic Action Plan, as appropriate. Both BOCES follow similar processes and provide that information to the RIC so that collaborative planning and assessment of activities can be coordinated for the region.

Additional participation in various statewide groups has provided information which has also been factored into the planning process. These groups include, but are not limited to DATAG, RIC Statewide Project Managers, and RIC Directors group meetings and associated sub-committees. Collaborative relationships with federal and state partners such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have also provided information and knowledge resource sharing that has contributed to our collective planning efforts.

All of these conversations, collaborations, feedback mechanisms and partnerships are intended to identify how well services are being received by participating districts, and to identify how services could be improved or how new services may be introduced.

The 793 Plan is available online at www.esboces.org/RIC > Important Links.

Western Suffolk BOCES meets on a regular basis with stakeholder groups, including component district Technology Directors, Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum/Instruction, Business Officials and Superintendents. Additionally, Western Suffolk BOCES' approach to service includes dedicated project managers that regularly meet with individual school districts to address needs that can be effectively met in collective efforts.

Additional targeted topic meetings are offered during the year.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

SECTION 2

Shared services and the related regional collaborative planning processes increase the efficiency of district decision making as well as their buying power. Shared purchasing vehicles and economies of scale are regularly leveraged to support component districts. Additionally, existing and new technology services are analyzed using a cost-benefit methodology.

PLAN ALIGNMENT TO NYSED PRIORITIES PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

SECTION 3

This section demonstrates the alignment of this regional plan to both NYSED and 12-RIC Priorities. Both the 793 Plan Governance Committee and stakeholders participated in the regional prioritization of needs and challenges which, in turn, are the regional priorities.

The RIC used its existing leadership and stakeholder structure to identify and prioritize regional needs.

The two BOCES regions served by the Suffolk Regional Information Center use a collaborative governance structure to prioritize needs, make decisions, and monitor progress. The primary Governance Committee establishes overall regional direction, strategic alignment, resource optimization and performance measurement. They meet formally at least once annually and at various meetings throughout the year.

At Eastern Suffolk BOCES, this Plan is presented at an annual Strategic Planning meeting, in support of the Agency's ongoing Middle States approval. This Plan is in direct alignment with the Agency's Strategic Plan, specifically Action Plan III: Educational Support Services and Action Plan IV: Regional Technology Services.

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TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

NYSED Priority:

- Digital Equity: Improving Digital Equity, including increasing student and teacher access to devices and broadband internet both in school buildings and in place(s) of residence.

12- RIC Priorities:

- Provide leadership, assistance and resources to enhance RIC's operations and staff capabilities in support of local, regional, and state priorities.
- Provide leadership, assistance, and resources to enhance districts' technology ecosystems in support of local, regional, and state priorities.
 - District Technology Plans
 - 793 Plans
 - Data Centers and WANs
 - Broadband and Connectivity
 - LAN support
 - Multimodal Instructional Strategies
 - Emerging Technologies
 - Service and Operational Excellence

ESBOCES

- Continue to employ high-quality leaders and technical experts
- Continue to support districts in maintaining and enhancing the technical skill-set of their leaders and teams
- Provide components with high-quality, cost-effective services including, but not limited to, school and home internet access, devices, and hosted solutions

WSBOCES

- Continue to identify regional needs that can be met with high quality, skilled technology solutions, including instructional networks, supports, learning platforms, equipment and internet access
- Continue to support technical and instructional staff with training and collaborative efforts
- Continue to explore new technologies to provide districts with tools to better educate students
- Continue to develop multiple bids to provide internet access via mobile and/or in-home

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

NYSED Priorities:

- **Tech-Enhanced Environments:** Increasing access to technology-enhanced, culturally and linguistically responsive, differentiated, and personalized learning environments to support improved teaching and learning for all students, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs).
- **Digital Learning Experiences:** Increasing equitable access to high-quality instruction, courses, and multi-modal learning experiences through digital technology, including but not limited to advanced courses, for all districts, including small, rural and/or high-needs districts.
- **Tech Proficient Educators:** Providing access to relevant and rigorous professional development to ensure educators and leaders are proficient in technology for both instructional and administrative purposes.

ESBOCES

- Provide access to translation services
- Provide access to digital learning experiences for in-person and remote instruction
- Provide professional development in artificial intelligence (AI) to build educator and student capacity for effectively integrating AI into teaching and learning
- Increase the capacity of Educational Technology Coaches (ETCs) in innovation, pedagogy, coaching strategies, and culturally responsive education to strengthen regional support for the effective integration of instructional technology

WSBOCES

- Provide professional development that supports technology in the delivery of instruction, including incorporating CRSE and enhanced digital learning experience for participants
- Provide technology platforms, equipment, and internet service to school districts and students
- Digital Translation bid is in place to offer districts translation services in 50 languages

DATA LEADERSHIP

NYSED Priorities:

- Utilizing, maintaining, and continuing to enhance a robust data environment, including but not limited to the multiple data collection points within the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and all data applications within the New York State Business Application Portal, to positively impact instruction and decision-making.

12- RIC Priority:

- Provide leadership, assistance, and resources to enhance districts' data ecosystem in support of local, regional, and state priorities.
 - ESSA and Accountability
 - Data Management (state reporting)
 - Administrative Systems
 - Data Elements and Flow
 - Data Analytics and Views

ESBOCES

- Maintain existing services and enhance or develop services, based on district demand
- Work collaboratively with other RICs across New York State
- Support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives

DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

NYSED Priority:

- Data Privacy and Security: Implementing and maintaining data privacy and security controls ensuring compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations including, but not limited to, New York Education Law 2-d.

12- RIC Priority:

- Data Privacy and Security: Provide leadership, assistance, and resources to enhance districts' security posture in support of local, regional, and state priorities.
 - State and Federal Laws
 - Data Protection Controls and Plans
 - Contractor Management
 - Cyber Threat Landscape
 - Intelligence Sharing

ESBOCES

- Maintain existing services and enhance or develop services, based on district demand
- Provide ongoing professional development
- Work collaboratively with other RICs across New York State
- Support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives

WSBOCES

- Provide services to school districts in the off-site storage and disaster recovery as a means of protecting district data
- Actively support districts with data and security needs
- Provide workshops and webinars: Cyber Security; Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning; Apple Security & Privacy Updates to address district needs and concerns

- Explore and identify emerging technology trends in support of cybersecurity solutions and training
- Provide short-term and long-term strategies with tools for planning and implementing cybersecurity solutions—aligned with EdLaw-2D, and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework & Function—to protect school district infrastructure, student and administrative data
- Leverage current bids, and develop new procurement vehicles to deliver cost effective cybersecurity solutions

VENDOR MANAGEMENT

12- RIC Priority

- Establish, maintain, monitor and evaluate vendor relationships to reduce risks and drive innovation in support of local, regional, and state priorities.

ESBOCES

- Maintain and expand existing purchasing vehicles, making sure Education Law 2-d compliance is in place, if appropriate
- Carefully monitor and actively work with vendors, if needed, to ensure risk and emergency protocols are in place

WSBOCES

- Collect and maintain a catalog of vendor signed Education Law 2-d acknowledgements
- Monitor vendor services in regard to cost effectiveness, service provision, certifications, performance and compliance with all state and local laws
- Establish and maintain relationships with local and statewide vendors
- Assure all vendors are fingerprinted and monitor all “notice of arrest” implications

5-YEAR REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN AND PRIORITIES QUANTIFIABLE GOALS AND MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR YEARS 1 AND 2

SECTION 4

TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES – monitored by the RIC Director, Senior Manager of Information Technology, Divisional Administrator of Student Data Services, Divisional Administrator of Financial and District Services, Network Communications Manager and associated RIC Administrator(s)

Goals:

- Continue to employ high-quality leaders and technical experts
 - 2026-2031 measures – able to fill positions with high-quality leaders and technical experts
- Continue to support districts in maintaining and enhancing the technical skill-set of their leaders and teams.
 - 2026-2031 measures – provided high-quality professional development and access to experts to maintain and enhance the technical skill-set of district leaders and teams
- Provide components with high-quality, cost-effective services including, but not limited to, school and home internet access, devices, and hosted solutions
 - 2026-2031 measures – continue to analyze current service models and enhance or create new services, as districts demand

WSBOCES – monitored by the Divisional Administrator and Network/Systems Program Managers

Goals:

- Continue to identify regional needs that can be met with high quality, skilled technology solutions, including instructional networks, supports, learning platforms, equipment and internet access
 - 2026-2031 measures – based on identified regional needs, provide solutions to address these needs
- Continue to support technical and instructional staff with training and collaborative efforts
 - 2026-2031 measures – provide high-quality professional development and collaborative opportunities
- Continue to explore new technologies to provide districts with tools to better educate students
 - 2026-2031 measures – provide opportunities for exploration of technologies and learning systems that support high-quality learning
- Continue to develop multiple bids to provide internet access, redundant internet access, mobile internet access and in-home internet access.
 - 2026-2031 measures – continue to develop and award multiple bids

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES Distance Learning – Monitored by the RIC Director and the Divisional Administrator of Financial and District Services

- Provide access to translation services
 - 2026-2031 measures – Provide robust and increasing translation services
- Provide access to digital learning experiences for in-person and remote instruction
 - 2026-2031 measures – through a partnership with Nassau BOCES, provide digital learning experiences

ESB Model Schools – Monitored by the Educational Support Services Director and the Model Schools Administrator(s)

- Provide professional development in artificial intelligence (AI) to build educator and student capacity for effectively integrating AI into teaching and learning 2026-2031 measures – AI professional development offerings provided to Model Schools Educational Technology Coaches.
- Increase the capacity of Educational Technology Coaches (ETCs) in innovation, pedagogy, coaching strategies, and culturally responsive education to strengthen regional support for the effective integration of instructional technology 2026-2031 measures – Professional Development offered to Educational Technology Coaches on Innovation, Pedagogy, Coaching and CRSE.

WSBOCES – Monitored by the Senior Divisional Administrator and Network/Systems Program Managers

- Provide professional development that supports technology in the delivery of instruction, including readiness for remote and/or hybrid instruction
 - 2026-2031 measures – provide multiple high-quality professional development opportunities
- Provide platforms and professional development to support implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Digital Translation bid is in place to offer district translation services in 50 languages
 - 2026-2031 measures – provide ongoing access to translation services

DATA LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES – Monitored by the RIC Director and Student Data Services Administrator(s)

Goals:

- Maintain existing services and enhance or develop services, based on district demand
 - 2026-2031 measures – districts will continue to have services available to meet their needs, especially during the transition to Computer Based Testing (CBT), scheduled to culminate in 2026

- Work collaboratively with other RICs across New York State
 - 2026-2031 measures – Student Data Services will continue to commit resources to collaborate with statewide RICs, where appropriate
- Support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives
 - 2026-2031 measures – Student Data Services will continue to commit resources to support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives

DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

ESBOCES – Monitored by the RIC Director, Divisional Administrator of Financial and District Services and the Information Technology Security Coordinator Goals:

- Maintain existing services and enhance or develop services, based on district demand
 - 2026-2031 measures - districts will continue to have services available to meet their needs, especially in alignment with Education Law 2-d, Part 121, and cyber security best practices
- Provide ongoing professional support
 - 2026-2031 measures – provide professional development to district Data Protection Officers
- Work collaboratively with other RICs across New York State
 - 2026-2031 measures - Student Data Services will continue to commit resources to collaborate with statewide RICs, where appropriate
- Support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives
 - 2026-2031 measures – The RIC will continue to commit resources to support and communicate New York State Education Department initiatives

WSBOCES – Monitored by the Divisional Administrator and Network/Systems Program Managers

- Provide services to school districts in the off-site storage and disaster recovery as a means of protecting district data
 - 2026-2031 measures – services will continue to be available to meet their needs
- Actively support districts with data and security needs
 - 2026-2031 measures – regular collaboration with component districts will occur to identify needs and provide solutions
- Provide workshops and webinars as needed
 - 2026-2031 measures – workshops and seminars will be provided to meet identified needs

VENDOR MANAGEMENT

ESBOCES – Monitored by the RIC Director and all associated RIC administrators

Goals

- Maintain and expand existing purchasing vehicles, making sure Education Law 2-d compliance is in place, if appropriate
 - 2026-2031 measures – Districts will continue to have access to an increasing list of contractual vehicles and applications that are Education Law 2- d compliant, if appropriate

- Carefully monitor and actively work with vendors, if needed, to ensure risk and emergency protocols are in place
 - 2026-2031 measures – an initial review is conducted during the contract review process and additional communication protocols are put in place if concerns are raised and/or experienced

WSBOCES – Monitored by the Divisional Administrator and Network/Systems Program Managers

- Collect and maintain a catalog of vendor signed Ed Law 2D acknowledgements
 - 2026-2031 measures – Districts will continue to have access to a catalog of Education Law 2-D compliant services and vendors
- Monitor vendor services in regard to cost effectiveness, service provision, certifications, performance and compliance with all state and local laws
 - 2026-2031 measures – ongoing evaluation and review of vendor provided services will continue
- Establish and maintain relationships with local and statewide vendors
 - 2026-2031 measures – high quality service providers will continue to be vetted and added to a directory from which selection to meet district needs is possible
- Assure all vendors are fingerprinted and monitor all “notice of arrest” implications
 - 2026-2031 measures – continue to require all vendors to provide proof of compliance for assigned employees prior to the entering of school facilities. Any changes to approved status will be communicated immediately to the vendor and the school districts.

EVALUATION OF PAST TWO YEARS

SECTION 5

TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES

- Provided access to various purchasing vehicles, showcases, and best practices so districts could make informed technology, policy and process decisions
- Provided increased networking opportunities to various stakeholder groups
- Provided access to web-based meeting tools
- Supported the Department's and RIC One's Student Data Privacy Consortium/A4L initiative

WSBOCES

- Conceptualized a statewide bid for in-home internet access
- Added new providers to provide personal Wi-Fi services to cover all areas of Long Island
- Created 1:1 environments in all 18 school districts
- Hosted seven cybersecurity webinars

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES

- Expanded Model Schools offerings, in the area of Artificial Intelligence
- Expanded Distance Learning offerings through a partnership with Nassau BOCES
- Expanded access to translation services

WSBOCES

- Expanded professional development offerings with opportunities for teachers to participate in STEM playground showcases and resource sharing
- Smart Start Grant trained teachers in Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards
- Expanded web-based instructional tutoring and learning opportunities
- Expanded access to translation services

DATA LEADERSHIP

ESBOCES

- Provided leadership to districts during regular data and assessment initiatives
- Provided leadership and just-in-time support to districts as they navigated NYSED's computer-based testing initiative
- Successfully communicated various NYSED data and reporting initiatives

DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

ESBOCES

- Offered off-site data storage and recovery services
- Offered multiple data privacy and security services to districts
- Actively participated in various RIC One data privacy and security initiatives

WSBOCES

- Offered off-site data storage and recovery services
- Offered multiple data privacy and security services to districts

VENDOR MANAGEMENT

ESBOCES

- Leveraged Erie 1 consortium agreements, OCM agreements, and Agency agreements to expand access to purchasing vehicles and applications including "clickwrap" agreements
- Expeditiously and diligently followed up directly with vendors where concerns were raised or experienced. Notified RIC Director leadership and/or District Superintendents, when necessary.

WSBOCES

- Implemented a 177-manufacturer line bid for items not covered under the NYS OGS contract
- Leverage Erie 1 consortium agreements
- Collaborate with several Cyber Security vendors to provide needed services to districts

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

Appendix A

All plans must include Appendix A which identifies the pages of the plan that address the required regulatory elements. Please indicate the page number(s) where the Regional Technology Plan addresses the following required elements:

Required Element	Page(s)
1. A description of the regional collaborative planning process	Section 1, p. 4-5
2. A description of how the regional technology plan supports efficient and effective provision of technology services, which includes a description of major challenges to be addressed by the plan;	Section 2, p. 6
3. A description of how the regional technology plan addresses the technology and data priorities and needs of the state, and how such plan will increase school district access to technology and assist school districts in developing and maintaining robust information privacy, information security, and cybersecurity controls;	Section 3, p. 7-10
State Priority 1: Improving digital equity, including increasing student and teacher access to devices and broadband internet both in school buildings and in place(s) of residence;	Section 3, p. 7-8
State Priority 2: Increasing access to technology-enhanced, culturally- and linguistically-responsive, differentiated, and personalized learning environments to support improved teaching and learning for all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners (Ells);	Section 3, p. 8
State Priority 3: Increasing equitable access to high-quality instruction, courses, and multi-modal learning experiences through digital technology, including but not limited to advanced courses, for all districts, including small, rural, and/or high-needs districts;	Section 3, p. 8
State Priority 4: Providing access to relevant and rigorous professional development to ensure educators and leaders are proficient in technology for both instructional and administrative purposes;	Section 3, p. 8
State Priority 5: Utilize, maintain, and continue to enhance a robust data environment, including but not limited to the multiple data collection points within the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and all data applications within the New York State Business Application Portal, to positively impact instruction and decision-making;	Section 3, p. 9
State Priority 6: Implementing and maintaining data privacy and security controls ensuring compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations including, but not limited to, New York Education Law 2-d.	Section 3, p. 9
4. A list of regional priorities and needs that the regional technology plan will address;	Section 3, p. 7-10
5. A description of the methods used to identify and prioritize needs in the region, which shall include engagement with key stakeholder groups;	Section 1, p. 4-5

6. A list of quantifiable goals and a description of how the goals will directly address the regional technology needs and improve service delivery over the next five years;	Section 4, p. 11-14
7. Performance objectives for the first two years of the plan;	Section 4, p. 11-14
8. A description of the procedures which will be put in place to monitor the plan's implementation;	Section 4, p. 11-14
9. An evaluation of the performance objectives for the previous two years; and	Section 5, p. 15-16
10. Appendix A	Page 17-18
11. Appendix B	Page 19

COOPERATIVE PLANNING ASSURANCES

Appendix B

The BOCES District Superintendents within this service delivery area are responsible for approving the regional planning process and this assurance document ensures:

- I approve the regional collaborative planning process used to develop and maintain our regional technology plan.
- I assure that my BOCES participated fully in the development of this regional plan.
- I assure that users, as defined in guidance, were substantively involved in the development of this plan.
- I assure that all technology services offered by my BOCES and the Regional Information Center are cost-effective.

Eastern Suffolk BOCES



Dr. Jasmin Varela, District Superintendent, signature

11/25/25

Date

Western Suffolk BOCES



April E. Popilio, District Superintendent, signature

11/20/25

Date