

School Practitioner Community of Practice
(A network for sharing & exchange)
Special Edition (3/23/20)

>Sharing Information about Resources and Actions

>>U.S. Department of Education update

>>Social and Emotional Support for students

>>What state departments of education are doing/suggesting

>Links to a few other relevant resources

Note: Go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/> for links to other Center resources.

**This resource is from the
Center for MH in Schools & Student/Learning Supports, UCLA**

Given education budgets, we have been asked to increase our outreach to make our free resources more available (e.g., for planning, professional development, etc.).

So please feel free to share with anyone you think might benefit (e.g., forward our resources to individuals and share on listservs and websites).

For those who have been forwarded this and want to receive resources directly, send an email to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

For previous postings of community of practice discussions, see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm>

Special Edition:

Sharing Information about Resources and Actions

>From the U.S. Department of Education

Readout of the U.S. Department of Education's COVID-19 Conference Call with K-12 Stakeholders March 20, 2020 <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/>

The U.S. Department of Education and other federal partners held a conference call today with K-12 education leaders representing all 50 states and two territories to discuss the Administration's whole-of-government response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Those who attended the call included representatives from the National Association of State Boards of Education, National Governors Association, Council of Chief State School Officers, and elected officials, among many others. During the discussion, subject matter experts answered questions about the process for approval of statewide testing waivers, meal delivery for students during school closures, lengths of school closures due to the outbreak, requirements for local education agencies to provide services to students with disabilities, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements during the outbreak....

Deputy Secretary Mitchell "Mick" Zais gave an overview of the Department of Education's COVID-19 working group, which he leads, and encouraged participants to frequently visit the Department's website, ed.gov/coronavirus, for updated materials.

Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education briefed participants on the Department's letter on the subject, a webinar on ensuring web accessibility for students with disabilities for schools utilizing online learning during the pandemic, and a fact sheet on how to protect students' civil rights as school leaders take steps to keep students safe and secure.

Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Schultz of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services spoke about the Department's guidance on how to provide services to students with disabilities during school closures throughout the outbreak. He announced clarifying information would be forthcoming in response to questions about implementation. Information on single points of contact for technical assistance to SEAs on best practices and models of instruction, accessibility, and data, will also be provided....

Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also participated in the call:

Nancy Messonnier from the CDC discussed what schools, parents and communities can do while schools are closed, as well as what strategies school administrators and staff should consider when they begin to think about reopening....

For more information on all the efforts the Department is taking to address the COVID-19 national emergency, visit ed.gov/coronavirus

For more information about COVID-19, please visit the following websites: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>.

>Social and emotional support for students

- (1) From Maurice Elias, the director of the Rutgers University Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab <https://www.njea.org/tips-for-managing-virtual-instruction-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>

Excerpt: ...Teachers are being asked to transform the way they teach. Of course, there has been online instruction for some time, but we have never delivered it at scale, to every learner, with so little lead time.

Every day, teachers are asked to use familiar modalities to teach in extremely challenging circumstances. Meeting diverse learning needs face to face is a constant struggle. Helping students and families be prepared for the job of learning in an increasingly globalized world is a task our education system did not face squarely before the coronavirus. Teachers are no strangers to being asked to do the impossible. But that does not make it easy, fun, or reasonable, especially now.

You are not teaching subject matter. You are teaching children and youth and serving as guides to their parents and guardians. Being in a crisis makes it all the more necessary that we think critically. And that means remembering that learning is relationship-centered and driven powerfully by emotion. It means that we will promote optimal learning if we keep students' social and emotional development, their SEL competencies, strongly in mind....

These are cataclysmic events that affect us directly, change our lives at home, and lead to worry about the well-being of loved ones. We cannot teach as if this is not true, no matter how professional we are. And we cannot teach as if our students and their families are not experiencing the exact same things....

Even before you learn about students' feelings and situations, be prepared to work with your schools to arrange a protocol for alerting school counselors, psychologists, or social workers when you suspect a child is having difficulty and/or if there are significant problems in the learning environment...

- (2) From CASEL <https://casel.org/covid-resources/>

As the country and the world respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19), we are all feeling a range of emotions - fear, anxiety, stress, and uncertainty. At CASEL, we understand how important it is to attend to the social and emotional needs that arise during stressful times like these. SEL offers a powerful means to explore and express our emotions, build relationships, and support each other - children and adults alike - during this challenging time.

CASEL is committed to our vision of disseminating high-quality SEL research and best practices. We are more determined now than ever. Please feel free to access and share the resources below, which are designed to support educators, parents, and anyone who works with children. This page

will be updated regularly in response to changing conditions.
See the link cited above for CASEL's guidelines for parents and Caregivers

>What state departments of education are doing/suggesting

(1) New York state department of education

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-and-new-yorks-public-television-stations-announce-expanded>

The New York State Education Department and New York's nine public television stations announced today that expanded educational resources and "Learn-at-Home" programming is now available for all of New York's students in response to school closings across the state. In addition, NYSED has launched a dedicated website featuring remote continuity of learning resources to provide districts and teachers with increased options.

Students from prekindergarten through 12th Grade will have access to PBS educational programming every weekday starting Monday, March 23rd on-air. These efforts will help ensure that all students can "Learn-at-Home", whether they have a computer or broadband at home....

Local stations will also provide more specific educational information and resources developed in conjunction with local school districts, BOCES, parents, and teachers.

New York's educators and parents can continue to access free educational resources that supplement and augment learning on the website, PBSLearningMedia.org. PBS LearningMedia provides original digital content and supplemental viewing guides for on-air programming that assist in learning. New special collections have been created for each grade level to make it easy for parents and teachers to select appropriate content if they are new to using the service. Webinars and online support materials have already been taking place and will continue to help educators make use of PBS LearningMedia as a distance learning tool....

(2) Nebraska Dept. of Ed

From the Commissioner to the district Superintendets

<https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/March182020CommishsLettertoSupts.pdf>

I couldn't sleep last night, wondering how to answer all of the questions I've received and trying to figure out how to address the complexities of the moment. Please do not let a single thing hold you back from the instincts of doing the right thing. Take this time to energize your staff members and empower them as you should be empowered to make a difference now.

I know we have complex questions about how to manage special education needs. We are working on the guidance and will release it very soon. I do not want anything to slow your progress on serving students. I have asked school attorneys to gather their questions and get them to me.... I have direct connections to the highest levels at the USD OE. Governor Ricketts will also take our questions to Vice President Pence. We are very well connected and I need you to trust that I have you all covered. Please do not get stuck in the weedy details. Get students out of buildings and empower teachers to do enrichment and education. We have to build the infrastructure to serve each student and this is no time to be caught in bureaucracy. Doing your best is the best defense. Again, I got your back on this.

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Please let us hear from you

We are trying to share good information, ideas, and lessons learned about what state/district/school/community are doing to support students/families/community during this challenging time.

Also, if there is anything we can help with (e.g., finding online resources for specific concerns), let us know.

Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu

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Links to a few other relevant resources

- > *Activities for Kids While Schools are Closed* <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/homeactivity.pdf>
- > *Helping Give Away Psychological Science/Coping with Coronavirus and other Epidemics*
https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Helping_Give_Away_Psychological_Science/Coping_with_Coronavirus_and_others_Epidemics
- > *Teaching Special Education Online during COVID19*
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1509526516513405185>
- > *Q&A for Serving Special Education Students*
<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

Sent to us for sharing:

- > *Parenting during a Pandemic: Tips for Parents Home for Extended Time Periods*
<https://medium.com/@wgrolnick/parenting-during-a-pandemic-tips-for-parents-home-for-extended-time-periods-2d71c06c456>
- > *School's Out: A Parents' Guide for Meeting the Challenge During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
<https://nyulangone.org/news/schools-out-parents-guide-meeting-challenge-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Resources for Home Study Topics Related to MH Topics

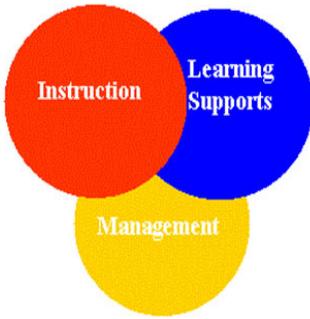
Over the school year, our Center resources are used by university students, middle and high school students and others who are doing projects related to mental health topics. So we thought we might mention that our online clearinghouse Quick Finds may be helpful as students pursue their learning from home. See the dropdown menu at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/quicksearch.htm>

You look upset.



Without school, I can't remember what day it is!

*Equity of opportunity is fundamental to enabling civil rights;
transforming student and learning supports is fundamental to
enabling equity of opportunity, promoting whole child development,
and enhancing school climate.*



**For information about the
National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports**
go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>
Also online are two related free books

Improving School Improvement

http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide

http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html

***THE MORE FOLKS SHARE, THE MORE USEFUL AND
INTERESTING THIS RESOURCE BECOMES!***

For new sign-ups – email Ltaylor@ucla.edu

Also send resources ideas, requests, comments, and experiences for sharing.

***We post a broad range of issues and responses to the Net Exchange
on our website at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newnetexchange.htm>
and on Facebook (access from the Center's home page <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>)***