

School Practitioner Community of Practice
(A network for sharing & exchange)
Special Edition (4/6/20)

Sharing Requests and Information about Resources and Actions

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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

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 Requests and Information about Resources and Actions

>Added Stressors on Teachers

Not surprisingly, as everyone tries to cope, teachers are experiencing exceptional stress. Teaching online is hard enough, teaching from home if there are children to care for is an added challenge, and now some teachers are saying that some principals and local district personnel have “created their own unfounded directives, time-wasting processes, and micro-management regimes.” See for example, this letter from the United Teachers of Los Angeles:

>Principals and Local Districts Must Stop Rogue, Onerous Directives

<https://www.utla.net/news/letter-utla-principals-and-local-districts-must-stop-rogue-onerous-directives>

>Online Teaching? Another Problem in Providing Equity of Opportunity

Another victim of the Coronavirus is the efforts to reduce the opportunity and achievement gaps. Here are two examples:

- (1) Excerpt from a news report about: *Chicago schools to distribute electronic devices to students*
https://www.richmond.com/chicago-schools-to-distribute-electronic-devices-to-students/article_a9702e5c-5ccb-580f-8a8a-b2fb3a31c921.html

... About 65,000 laptops, Chrome books and iPads already being used in schools will be distributed to families who need them the most. The school district is in the process of buying another 37,000 new devices to distribute. District officials said they didn't know how many of approximately 335,000 students will still be without computers.

Chicago schools chief executive Dr. Janice Jackson said the district plans to implement remote learning beginning April 13 and families can expect to hear from their schools by April 6. Officials did not say if electronic devices will reach families by the time the remote learning plan begins.

The article concludes that because “attendance won’t be taken and students with limited access to technology won’t penalized.”

(2) Excerpt from a news report about: Those without broadband struggle in a stuck-at-home nation https://www.richmond.com/business/ap/those-without-broadband-struggle-in-a-stuck-at-home-nation/article_afccb9a0-0543-53fa-bf93-d86293ad3062.html

...There are no definitive numbers on those without broadband. The FCC puts the number at 21 million, but its data is faulty and most likely undercounts the problem. An independent group called BroadbandNow pegs it at 42 million. The digital divide disproportionately affects rural areas, African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans on tribal lands....

Students, meanwhile, struggle with a “homework gap” when they can’t get or submit assignments, much less watch online lectures or participate in discussions. Online schoolwork is now the norm, but the millions of students who don’t have home internet or access to computers at home require creative solutions as schools shut down.

In rural western Alabama, less than 1% of Perry County’s roughly 9,100 residents have high-quality internet at home, so online lessons are out. County teachers spent three days manually loading scanned images of math worksheets and other materials on to iPads and Chromebooks for the system’s 1,100 students to take home while out of class, said Superintendent John Heard.

A New York City family shelter has no Wi-Fi and 175 school-age children, only 15 of whom have laptops. City schools are sending some kids tablets equipped with internet service. But Estrella Montanez, who runs the shelter, worries that kids will have trouble managing remote work. “Many families are not so tech-savvy,” she said.

Lawmakers want the federal government to send schools and libraries more money to lend out Wi-Fi hotspots to students. But the FCC says it’s not authorized to do that under current law and is discussing a solution with Congress.

On Navajo Nation, the country’s largest Native American reservation, it’s common to see people sitting in their vehicles at night outside local government centers, fast-food restaurants and grocery stores to connect to Wi-Fi. Diné College is lending laptops to students and asking internet providers to improve service.

Digital-access advocates hope that this crisis propels the government to do more to get people connected. In some places, relief was expected later this year. But that’s too late to help with the current crisis.

Center Comments: Everyone appropriately is focused on the health crisis and the related economic crisis. As the above news reports indicate, the pandemic is increasing the opportunity gap, and this will increase the achievement gap. School professionals and families will continue to do what they can until schools reopen. No one should doubt the many costs to these professional and their families, and no one should doubt that some students will not thrive under current conditions or that those students who have not done well in school previously will fall further behind.

Given all this, it is evident that more immediate attention is needed to providing student/learning supports for students who are not doing well with distance learning. And, looking ahead, now is the time to start planning for when schools reopen, with special attention to providing essential supports for those who are struggling. There is no way that business as usual will be sufficient when they come back. If education professionals fail to take time to plan innovatively in the coming months, the numbers of dropouts and the related personal and societal costs will exacerbate the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.

Listserv Participants: Please share information, ideas, and resources that can be used in the distance learning context to help enhance student/learning supports. Also, please take some action steps to encourage innovative planning for student in need when schools reopen.

Preparedness is planning ahead and working together.

How one teacher is reaching out to students

...In the Stewartville School District in southeastern Minnesota, middle and high school teacher Jim Parry helped prepare by posting YouTube videos aimed at helping students overcome their fears. "If we let these emotions control us, we won't have a chance to experience personal growth together, as a community," Parry said into the camera outside an empty school...

Parry, who runs the district's REACH program for kids who need extra support, said Monday that he'd been using Google Meet, Google Hangout, emails, phone calls and text messages to connect with his students.

"I just got off the phone with one student in particular that is struggling with everything going on," he said. "And I said, 'It's going to be OK. I promise. Any way that I can connect with you, that's what we'll use.' ... I think it's important that we're flexible enough to know that not every family is going to understand every tool that we use to deliver curriculum."

https://www.richmond.com/news/national/minnesotas-distance-learning-experiment-sees-some-glitches/article_e4abf10f-47bf-59f5-8538-8c79a6cd0317.html

>Links to a few other relevant shared resources

Remaining Resilient During a Pandemic

https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/backgrounders/backgrounder-1-resilient.html?utm_source=APS+Emails&utm_campaign=82491128fc-PSU_04032020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d2c7283f04-82491128fc-62625175

Resources for 2e Families & Teachers During Pandemic

<https://www.2enews.com/resources/resources-for-2e-families-teachers-during-pandemic/>

Annenberg Learner <https://www.learner.org/>

Open Culture has 1,150 free movies, 700 free audio books, 800 free ebooks, 200 free textbooks, 300 free language lessons, free K-12 education 1,300 free online courses, 1000+ MOOCs, <http://www.openculture.com/>

For links to activities to pursue while schools are closed, see

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/homeactivity.pdf>

and previous special editions of the Community of Practice.

Here's a few more activity sites:

Help Kids Burn Energy: 10 Easy Ideas

<https://homeschoolhideout.com/help-kids-burn-energy-10-easy-ideas/>

Kids Activities Blog <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/>

Chatter Pack's list of free, online, boredom-busting resources

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

Card Games, Checkers, Chess, etc. <https://cardgames.io/>

Activity for today

Take a look at Open Culture. It has 1,150 free movies, 700 free audio books, 800 free ebooks, 200 free textbooks, 300 free language lessons, free K-12 education 1,300 free online courses, 1000+ MOOCs, <http://www.openculture.com/>

DEAR READER:

Everyone has a stake in the future of public education. *This is a critical time for action. Send this resource on to others. Think about sharing with the growing number who are receiving it. AND Let us know about what we should be including.*

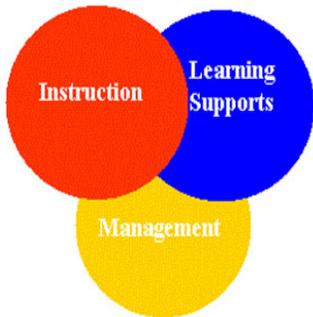
For those who are employed by state and local education agencies and schools, we know you are busy. It would be great to share what actions you are taking to address immediate concerns and how you are anticipating the problems that will arise when schools reopen.

Aren't you glad there's no school.



Sure, it gives so much more time for social networking.

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/>)