



ETA Update 04-19-2020

Day 37

Little did we know on March 13th, what was really ahead of us. We have entered into a new world of distance learning, virtual meetings, and working from home that will now continue for the remainder of the school year. Some members have expressed how much they miss their students, colleagues and even staff meetings. All the pieces that were in place in our buildings such as schedules, IEP meetings and more, now all need to be revisited.

Since March 13th, a great deal of planning and professional development had to happen in a very short time. That is why you are experiencing changes as you do, and therefore flexibility and adaptation are needed. A great deal of information is flooding your inbox from the district, principals, and various departments. I do know that the message from Superintendent Tony Sanders and Dr. Suzanne Johnson is constant: Do the best you can under these circumstances. Check in with your students to make sure they are doing well and are safe, teach them the best you can and take care of yourself and your families.

If you are receiving “must dos” that did not exist while you were in your buildings, consider those voluntary, not mandatory. The Elgin Agreement is still in force between the district and members. It is just being done a different way.

In order to address some of the questions that members are asking, I will update you as needed. Please know that the district does involve the union in a great deal of the decisions, when possible. Many of the decisions are directed by the federal government, the governor, and ISBE, such as those related to specialized student services, distance learning protocols, and many of the other decisions that impact teaching and learning.

It is extremely hard that we didn't get to say a proper goodbye to our students, especially our students that will transition to kindergarten, middle school, high school, and college next year. 37 days ago we never could have imagined that this would be the last time we would “see” our students in our classrooms, but we are continuing to teach and give our students the highest quality education we can in such unprecedented times.

U-46 Foundation - United for Covid Relief Fund

Let's continue to help our students and families in our community. This period of shut down is difficult on many of our families in different ways. I am asking that you please consider contributing to the U-46 Foundation's United for Covid Relief Fund.

The Elgin Teacher Association donated \$1500 to the U-46 Foundation's United for Covid Relief Fund. The United for Covid Relief Fund supports our U-46 community. Money from this campaign will go towards foods and other necessities for U-46 families during this time of crisis. No contribution is too small. The link below will take you to a donation page, where you can join our team and make a donation. Join the ETA Team and help our families. Thank you to all of you who have already contributed.

[Donate Here](#)

Those Who Excel

Last call! 6th grade and 8th grade student nominees for Those Who Excel are needed. Even though we won't be holding the annual event at Larkin High School to honor our High School, 8th grade, and 6th grade students, we can still celebrate those who excelled in the classroom.

Get your nominations in NOW so that we can celebrate our students.

Fill out the survey on the [ETA Website](#) or send an email to etathosewhoexcel@gmail.com

Building Meetings

Members should continue to meet for SIP/SD and Staff Meetings. These

meetings should be scheduled for outside of the 9 to 3 “work day.” The committee should decide what works best time-wise for members. If a member, for a personal reason cannot attend, it should be discussed with the chair of the committee or the administrator. A point of reference for length and frequency can be found in the Elgin Agreement.

SIP teams should continue to put together agendas for staff meetings, and School Department teams should continue to follow the language set forth in section 2.54 of the Elgin Agreement.

Elections

Before the end of this school year, representatives should be elected for the upcoming school year for the following positions:

- SIP Committee Representatives
- School Department Representatives
- ETA Representatives

The number of ETA Representatives is determined on a ratio of 10 teachers to 1 rep for each building. Five buildings this past year did not have representatives and were missing out on a great deal of information and training. Make sure your building does not allow this to happen.

In the next week, ETA will release a training about holding elections. It will be sent out via email and posted under training on the ETA website.

TAP Evaluations

Tenured teachers, if you do not require a Summative Conference this year, you are not impacted by the changes in the Online System and no action is required.

If you DO require a Summative Conference this year, Summative Conferences are occurring now until May 15th. Your administrator should be reaching out to you to set a virtual meeting. You can also reach out to your administrator to start this conversation. The TAP Oversight committee continues to send information to all members. Please make sure to read the important information that was sent from TAP this past week. It can also be found on the [ETA website under the Covid-19 section](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about the TAP process, email those concerns to:

Summatives/Evaluations: TAPADM@u-46.org
Student Growth: StudentGrowth@u-46.org

License Renewal/CPDUs

At this time, there has been no change in timelines for license renewal. If your license is set to expire you should renew your license as normal.

CPDUs have begun to be emailed to those who attended Professional Development training on the 30th. *Please note:* if you signed up in Wisdomwhere and the session was eligible for CPDUs, CPDUs will be emailed to you. Keep in mind, not all sessions qualify under ISBE rules for CPDUs. In addition, if a link was shared and you did not sign up for the session on Wisdomwhere, the district has no record of attendance and will not receive CPDUs.

Appendix F

The Appendix F Committee will meet on April 21st to review an Agreement between the ETA and School District regarding Appendix F monies. A separate email will be sent next week with a final decision.

Professional Credits/PLC

Salary Credit Oversight Committee discussed Professional Credits for the second semester. Credits will be awarded to those committees, as stated, in the [Compensation Table: Additional Work](#) shared at the RA in February.

PLCs should continue to meet and be completed by June 30th. All evidence and signatures must be entered prior to July 31st in order to receive a Professional Credit for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Any PLCs started now, will be credited in the 2021-2022 school year.

Text messages from IEA

Many of you have received a text message from the IEA. Please feel free to respond. IEA is checking in with you regarding distance learning.

District Contractual Committees

District Contractual Committees continue to meet. Please go to [the ETA Website](#) to locate district links to find minutes of meetings and also view members of these committees.

The following committees continue to meet per ETA Agreement:

- Appendix F Committee
- District MTSS Committee
- Elementary Workload
- Health Insurance Committee
- Instructional Council
- Peer Assistance Review
- Professional Development Committee
- Retirement Committee
- Safety Committee
- Salary Credit Oversight Committee
- Specialized Education Committee
- Teacher Appraisal Plan Oversight Committee
- Teacher Mentoring Program

ETA Virtual Representative Assembly in May

ETA will be sharing more information as to how the May ETA Rep Assembly will occur. Look for more information in the next few weeks.

May 1st SIP Day

May 1st is on the calendar as a SIP Day and will remain a SIP day. District will be sending information soon.

Specialized Student Services

Throughout the school closure, IEA has been hearing from educators about the challenges of meeting the goals of their students' IEPs during remote learning. [We encourage you to share your stories](#) with NEA so they can, in turn, share them with federal lawmakers and the U.S. Department of Education.

Links to crucial information:

[Additional educator resources](#)

[Remote learning resources](#)

[USDA – SFSP COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Financial help available](#)

[Mindfulness in the Classroom & Beyond](#)

[Latest ISBE Guidance 4-8-20](#)

Several state agencies combined efforts to draw up an [Illinois WiFi hotspot map](#) so students can readily access WiFi hotspots across the state.

Be safe and be sure to take care of yourself and your families.

Barbara Bettis
ETA President