



ETA Covid-19 Update

03-18-2020

8:00 PM

Thank you!

First of all, thank you to all of the CSNs, RNs, health service staff, ETA Members, our brothers and sisters in the other unions, administrators, and all others who were available Monday for our families. This allowed our students to have their much needed medication to be picked up. Then Tuesday, volunteers were at ESC to distribute prescriptions to families in a drive up fashion. Some even delivered the medication to the workplaces when a parent/guardian could not make it to the district office. We also had a number of meals passed out to our students on Tuesday at a number of sites and it continues. Additionally, staff from Instructional Services and the office of Safety and Culture were on hand to get computers to some of the families of our students. This is such a trying time and it is great to see so many step up in this time of need.

Covid-19 Impact on the Closing of Schools

The leaders of the IEA and IFT continue to meet with the Governor to continue the discussions on the closing of schools and the impact of running a school district in this current climate. IEA provides daily updates to Jack Janezic, our IEA/ETA UniServ Director, who then shares this information with me. As previously stated, the majority of decisions occur at the state and the federal government levels. Decisions are constantly changing and evolving. A decision today may be changed tomorrow. ETA and the district will be updating you when this occurs. We are all working in uncharted waters and the questions at this point are endless.

Where there are local decisions that impact ETA members and their job assignments, we are involved in these conversations with the district superintendents. Discussions that impact our contract language and how this will be communicated are being discussed daily.

Distance Learning Phase 1 - March 19, 20 and 30 only.

Communication will be sent to administrators, teachers and parents outlining what Phase 1 of Distance Learning will be. At this time, there is no expectation for teachers to post any work or assignments online. These are suggested activities for parents for these three days.

Distance Learning Phase 2 - March 30 and Beyond

Currently, on March 30th, teachers will need to be available online for professional development relating to the rollout of distance learning. Additional resources may be available prior to this date For students, Distance

Learning Phase 2 begins on March 31st. District will be sending information in the upcoming days about how teachers can best prepare for this endeavor.

This will look different for everyone. Patience and ingenuity for the profession will be needed by our members as we work through this. We should not and cannot compare one job to another and the district is looking at each job individually and what role it plays in distance learning. What matters is that we remain professional and support each other, and most importantly support our students and community.

IEPs and 504 Plans

At this time, no timelines have been changed. Updates from the Federal governments are anticipated. Further information on this will be shared in the next few days regarding guidelines for how teachers can meet the IEP and 504 plans of our students.

Salary and Insurance Concerns

ETA members salary and benefits will continue uninterrupted with the implementation of distance learning. TRS service credit will accrue now during Act of God Days and also during distance learning.

Student Learning Objective and Teacher Appraisal Plan

ETA and District are working through the expectations for the Teacher Appraisal Plan. ISBE, IEA and IFT are working on finalizing the rules to guide this work moving forward.

Transfer Reassignment

As of today, the Transfer Reassignment timeline is still in place. Make sure to apply on Applitrack and contact the building administrator if interested in a position. As in years past, the process allows for interviews to take place remotely. For schools that do team interviews, begin appropriate planning to maintain that practice. Be prepared for the interviews, just as you would be for a face-to-face meeting.

Standardized Testing

IAR, AP and SAT assessments are still under discussion at the state and federal levels.

RA Materials

At this time we will not be distributing the RA Materials for March. The focus of our members needs to be on the work in the days ahead. There is no action to be taken for the membership at this time.

I appreciate the willingness of our ETA community to be flexible and supportive of our district and students during these most unprecedented circumstances. Let me assure you that the goal of the work we are doing is to bring some sense of normalcy for all, however long this continues. As I have further updates, I will be sending those to you and I encourage you to continue to check your district email and your personal email on a frequent basis.

Stay Well,
Barbara Bettis
ETA President

