

ESC of Northeast Ohio

District Support during COVID-19

Highlights

Indirect Support with Leadership

- Distributed guidance from the CDC, ODE, OSBA, etc. as it became available.
- Held a webinar with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to our Leadership Roundtable on March, with over 80 participants, including the Cleveland Diocese and other non-public schools. The Board of Health information and advice to districts as they tried to make decisions regarding trips, events, etc. We hosted, facilitated and recorded this webinar, then shared it with our districts and others that participated and also posted in on the front page of our website.
- Prior to the Governor's order to close schools we also created a Google folder for districts to share all of their PR and Communication efforts that focused on prevention and safety in the districts.
- We also created a Google document where districts could begin uploading their decisions around trips, events, etc. due to initial travel restrictions and then bans on gathering.
- On Thursday (3/12) a previously scheduled First Ring district meeting that became a webinar so Superintendents could stay in their district for the Governor's press conference about school closures. We set up a second conference call with districts to quickly debrief after the call.
- With many still unanswered questions during the time Superintendents were trying to make decisions we then created a new Google folder for "COVID-19" and are using subfolders for PR, planning documents, Board of Health webinar and materials, extended learning plans, district resources, federal regulations, Executive orders, etc. We continue to update this resource for districts and are encouraging our colleagues to share with each other.
- We created and sent joint letter on Friday, March 13th between ESCNEO, Connect and ESC of Lorain County/NORT2H to remind districts of all the ways we can support them in technology integration and professional development as their teams finalize plans for virtual learning.
- Regionally inform districts on state updates from the Governor, ODE, the General Assembly while regularly convening them so they have opportunities to learn from each other as the work changes.
- We have been doing this through webinars with different groups of administrators from our client districts, which are now scheduled weekly (i.e. Superintendents, First Ring Superintendents, Pupil Services, Principals, etc.). After each webinar, the ESC follows up with requested resources, information or clarification.
- As of Wednesday's (3/25) passage of HB197, information has been continuously shared with districts that was either received from state associations, such as OESCA, or

gathered from the Ohio Legislative Service Commission. This Friday (3/27) included a weekly Leadership Roundtable with Superintendents from our client districts and we presented a PPT Summary of HB197 to give them a comprehensive, but straightforward resource to understand HB197 (attached to this email). The Roundtable ended with additional next steps for clarification on HB197 and monitoring of new ODE rules that will be developed with the authority given to the State Superintendent.

- We had a discussion today (3/27) with the Education Program Officer for The Cleveland Foundation regarding the Cleveland Rapid Response Fund. We will be facilitating a discussion with our higher poverty, inner ring districts about submitting an application to the Rapid Response Fund in order to address some of the basic needs where inequity has become more of a factor than ever before in students accessing their education. The ESC will lead the effort over the next week or two to complete and submit a proposal.

Direct Support

- Our ESC consultants continue to maintain contact with those they supported within districts to help teams or individuals create solutions. These are ad-hoc, right now, and at no-cost to the district.
- We also changed several of our upcoming professional development opportunities into online courses or webinars so that district staff could continue to increase their learning, even while remote.
- Our most prominent service was a five-part series on virtual learning tools. This was initially an in-person series that was revised to five webinars at no costs to districts. Each webinar filled up within two days with about 100 participants. The webinars were recorded and posted on our website along with the notes.
- We sent a survey last week to solicit other types of unique direct services they may need specifically to address their efforts. We are slowly getting responses back, which will determine how we move forward. This may include a clearinghouse of access to high-quality educational resources, creation of online learning materials for particular grades/subjects, broad training for staff in virtual learning platforms, or direct coaching for teachers in virtual learning or strategies for virtually serving students with special needs.
- Even beyond the survey, we will also always find a way to provide a service that any district may realize is necessary. Districts are just now beginning to consider these options as they settle into a “new normal”. Our internal teams continue to meet virtually to develop new levels of support that can be provided when districts are ready.