SCOESC COVID-19 Response

The South Central Ohio Educational Service Center has been working with their client districts, community, and students to provide resources, support, professional development and tools to maintain normalcy as much as possible and assist during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Where Service is Central” is our motto and we are living that motto as we move toward expanded ways of delivering our services. Our leadership team continues to meet via google meet and/or zoom and maintains a frequent dialogue within the google hangout chat platform. The following are a few highlights from various departments:

Special Education

A. Our Related Services consist of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Audiology, Speech, and Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Each department within Related Services are still serving students. We have various deliveries of services. We are using telehealth, virtual sessions and our teachers of the visually impaired are printing work packets using our braille printing and mailing the work to those students. We have transition meetings taking place, evaluations completed by a review of records or submission of a waiver. Documentation is extensive and Medicaid is being billed where allowed.
   a. Our Related Services administrative assistant has all calls forwarded to her home so she is still able to answer questions and accept referrals; feel free to call if needed 740-354-0270. Caseloads are being monitored daily and progress book is being kept up to date.

B. K-12 Special Education is continuing in various forms. The SCOESC has 38 cooperative classrooms throughout our member districts. All teachers have remote learning plans on google docs and sheets. Most of the students have chromebooks and are working with those. Teachers are talking with parents via phone calls on a regular basis. They have also uploaded many videos (one teacher videoed the classroom chickens hatching so the students could witness). The IEP meetings are still moving forward utilizing many formats to get as many team members involved as possible.

C. The PS Special Education team has daily check-ins and are utilizing a shared google drive to share resources and information. Every family with a child enrolled in our program has been contacted. Teachers have delivered supplies (paper, scissors, etc), lessons, books, and ideas for play. IEPs are staying current however, no face to face meetings are taking place. Packets have been made for outside member districts that have also reached out for assistance. The PS Special Education Supervisor reminds us all that children also need to experience play and exploration!
Our curriculum team has been very busy creating online professional development opportunities to provide training for teachers. This is just the beginning of the offerings; they are developing more and more and will load them on our site as they are ready. These are also trainings that allow CEUs that the teachers can use in order to renew their certificates. These can be found on our website by clicking on the curriculum tab then clicking on the professional development tab.

The curriculum team is constantly updating a resource list for remote learning. These are separated by content area and updated frequently. These can be beneficial to teachers, parents, and students.

In addition to these services, our curriculum supervisor, Tammy Hambrick, oversees the area Resident Educator group and has revised activities to ensure these educators can continue their progress. The March Resident Educator meeting was held online. They have also developed a google folder where they can watch lessons and critique in a lesson review. JD Emnett, oversees the OTES for all of our cooperative units. Conferences and data entry are continuing although the conferencing is taking place either by videoconference or telephonically.
Technology

Our technology department is working with all staff to manage the remote working systems. From students, teachers, to administrative staff, everything right now is working properly. The addition of google hangouts, google meet, and zoom accounts have also been handled through this department. Remote support for desktop sessions has also taken place. This time has also been used for extensive documentation and updates. Our technology department is also working with our member districts as a resource and troubleshooting service.

CAPE – Alternative School

Our alternative school sent home chromebooks with all students that needed a device. We still have some students without access and paper packets went home with those students. Students were grouped into their “Warrior Wednesday” and those teacher leaders are the ones overseeing their progress. A private Facebook page/group was created for CAPE and constant communication is going out for the students. The principal and one or two staff members have gone out twice to deliver more work or another chromebook, etc. Food is also being delivered to those in need (either by home district or by CAPE staff). The students are turning in work and responding to the communication from staff and by Facebook. Parent communication is up as well!

Help Me Grow/Home Visiting and Early Intervention

The Help Me Grow staff is following guidelines from ODH/DODD and our state government. They are maintaining engagement through telehealth, phone calls, and video conferencing. Staff are still dropping off packages of curriculum, supplies (diapers, formula etc.), car seats, and pack n plays. The team is utilizing this time to further professional development by credentialing in Infant Mental Health. Weekly supervision is being conducted through video conferencing. The Early Intervention staff have been contacting new referrals through video conferencing and completing the IFSPs as they are able.

Gifted Services

Our Gifted Services Coordinator has been working on reading and scoring grant applications for the Ohio Arts Council. These will be reviewed and determinations will be made for the SCOESC Summer Enrichment Scholarships. The calendar and venues for next year’s programs and events is also being completed. The process of reviewing the Scioto Foundation college scholarship applications has also begun.

Communication

Our Communication Coordinator is maintaining our website as well as monitoring districts to share updates on social media. The SCOESC Facebook page has copious followers and is the areas one stop location for news about our member districts. Other publications such as our newsletter are also being maintained during this time.
A. The Superintendent maintains daily communication with the 15 member district superintendents from our four county region. Google meets and zoom meetings have been held daily with a multitude of groups. We are also continuing our GRIT project and have shared 5 certification courses that our students can take for free. As a representative of our member districts, the superintendent also participates in the Emergency Management Agency meetings and remains the point of contact for the EMA and our Health Commissioner. In addition, as the chair of our health insurance consortium, interviews for a Doctor and Nurse Practitioner have been held. Our health center is remaining at 100% utilization so we continue to navigate protocols for the system during this pandemic.

B. The Treasurer has been able to complete to “future” payrolls – meaning the ACH notices were delivered via email showing the future deposit has been received. This is the only office that is physically going in to our agency but at limited times. They are maintaining accounts payable and accounts receivable. The treasurer is finalizing this years’ co-operative units and starting the FY21 estimates. The treasurer will be arranging for meetings with each individual district for budget meetings with the low incidence cooperatives, preschool cooperatives, and speech cooperative.

C. The Assistant Superintendent handles all of our Human Resources and interviews are continuing. The Assistant Superintendent is interviewing for various positions and these are still being conducted utilizing the team members from a particular department in a Google Meet setting. These are working very well. The SCOESC plans to act on approximately 132 contracts at our April board meeting.

D. Our Executive Secretary has also forwarded her phone calls to home. Because she oversees licenses for all of our member districts, she continues keeping those up to date as far as renewal dates and materials needed. She is also processes and helping with all new requests. Our substitute call out system is also being maintained as far as data, it will remain “disconnected” until we are back to work.