

ESUCC Emergency Meeting

March 13, 2020

1:30 CST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3773489901>

Meeting ID: 377 348 9901

1. Covid 19: Current Contingency Plans

- a. Possible Regional Closures
- b. Special Programs (Sped, Level III, etc.) and continued instruction.

2. Zoom Option, Google Meet, etc.

- a. [Scott Jones Letter](#)
- b. [How to Use Zoom for Online Learning](#)

3. Current and Future Data

- a. Closures-[Known School Closures Website](#)
- b. Workshops and other Events

4. Legislative Update(s)

5. Other

[ESU 7 Guide](#)

[ESU 8 Guide](#)

[Free Resources](#)

Please pose your questions here for the joint ESUCC/ESPD meeting with KSB regarding Coronavirus.

If you have a question that is universal and will help all service units, this is the time to get those questions answered.

If you have a question that is specific to your service unit or one of your staff, please contact KSB directly.

-
1. If there are school closures, are schools still obligated to pay ESU contracts knowing that according to statute 79-8106, ESUs are still obligated to pay their teaching staff?
 - i. 79-8106 does not apply to ESU's. It applies to public schools. Relevant statute is [79-1219](#) says that ESU can decide to fix the compensation of administrator, professional staff and clerical assistants.
 1. An option could be if we do not charge hours for 4th quarter that we increase rate and adjust billing for quarters 1-3
 - ii. Karen thinks the answer is no, schools don't have to pay if ESU is not meeting contract. **But because schools are still going to be receiving services because special ed students still need to be served, contracts may be paid.**

 2. If there are school closures, how long do IEP teams have before they convene to adjust the IEP (assuming the school is providing services to general ed students)? Does this need to be an IEP meeting, or can we use PWN if the parents are in agreement?
 - a. We are all going to send out a PWN after 10 days of closure.
 - i. Tell us more about the requirement to provide PWN when school is not in session and no instruction is being provided to all students. Why doesn't that requirement apply to other breaks like Christmas and summer?
 1. *Because IEPs all address that they follow the school calendar. This PWN is recommended because we should be in school right now according to the school calendar.*
 - b. Can amend the IEP without a meeting (separate documentation, then send the PWN)
 - c. If the family agrees with the lesser services during the closure, then Document and complete a PWN.
 - d. When school resumes, the team will have to meet.

007.09E In making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP meeting for a school year, the parent of a child with a disability and the school district or approved cooperative may agree not to convene an IEP meeting for the purposes of making those changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP.

007.09E1 If changes are made to the child's IEP in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007.09E, the school district or approved cooperative must ensure that the child's IEP team is informed of those changes.

3. Managing itinerant staff that work in districts that make different decisions (district A decides to provide services so staff is 'on duty', district B decides calendar change with services in June so same staff needs duty time in June but will be out of contract days).
 - a. A duty day is a duty day is a duty day. ESUs can 'deploy' some of their staff now and 'deploy' some when the school year reopens- may not be the best way but is one way to look at it.
4. OSEP hasn't created guidance around timelines and guidance. Try to get them through. There is no provision for that. They are creating guidance on that when they are ready?
 - a. Guidance included in this document posted 3/16/2020
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-coronavirus-fact-sheet.pdf>
 - i. Page 3 - IEP teams are not required to meet in person. You can meet via phone, zoom, etc.
 - ii. Get a list of IEP's that are due during the closure.
 - iii. The evaluation can be put on pause if the assessment needs to be in person. The 3 year date does not change...just the evaluation (in person)
 - b. Could we create a consent for eval and have parents refuse consent as a way to document the timeline? Make note of when we will seek consent in the future.
5. The OSEP has shared that if you are providing online (or other) instruction to regular education students, you must provide FAPE to those who receive special education services. There is such a continuum of sped services provided by schools that this is not logistically possible in the current environment. *How do we get around the seemingly, egalitarian OSEP position?*
 - i. Providing FAPE is in the context of what the general ed environment looks like. Attempt to provide the ratio of sped services to gen ed services as what was provided during the traditional brick and mortar schooling they had prior to this crisis.

6. Can you provide further interpretation on the guidance about having a meeting once school starts up again to determine if compensatory services are needed? Do we need to have an IEP meeting for all of our students? Does this need to be formalized or can an informal meeting take place with a prior written notice.
 - i. Would like some guiding questions to ensure these meetings are effective at answering and documenting the discussion about the need for comp ed.
 - ii. Karen recommends an IEP meeting for every student will be appropriate (depending on the length of closure), but not necessarily at the immediate start of the school year. Case by case basis. One topic of discussion at each IEP meeting should be “Is there anything else we need to consider as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic?”
 - iii. Divide students into three categories in regard to IEP meetings when we get back from closure: Immediate, pretty soon and we can wait
7. What components need to be put in a contingency plan and when should this be put into place? Can it be done through a district notes page? Is it a prior written notice?
 - a. This is potentially a moot point since the contingency happened- we are closed. We do not owe PWN since the contingency has happened.
8. How are districts communicating and working with students that are immune compromised?
 - a. More simple since closures have happened. IEP teams would meet and place the child on homebound.
9. Would districts handle students with extended school year services the same over this break as they do over the summer?
 - a. Compensatory services is different than ESY. ESY is based on regression or recoupment. We owe ESY hours if they are on the IEP. Compensatory ed is offered because we owe a duty that we couldn't meet during this time. If we are not back in session when we would typically provide ESY- we'll figure it out then- it will cause cognitive overload if we try to handle this now.
10. What is the obligation to complete initial and re-eval MDTs and IEPs by the due dates?

These dates are not waived by OSERS. Try to meet the dates. Make efforts to make the annual IEP dates this spring. Initial evaluation timelines are not waived at this time.

Get a written statement from parents if they do not want to make the student available?

11. Some districts are talking about providing just 'enrichment' activities which feels like a way to avoid having to provide FAPE to students with disabilities. What is your guidance on how to handle this?

- i. Education is you have to learn this stuff- I teach, you learn, you demonstrate mastery, and then we move on. Enrichment is repeat, practice, maintenance of skills. Enrichment can (and should) be provided to all kids.

Is there a link to get reconnected? Number is 847-316-0422 link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8473160422>

12. Is only providing "enrichment" an option if the closure continues for the rest of the school year? I felt like the message from the Commissioner was that NDE would be understanding of waivers of hours, etc. if schools were trying to educate. Will that be the case if districts do nothing for the rest of the year?

- a. More guidance to come

13. Clarity on if Part C services continue if schools are closed? Can visits and meetings be held via zoom or must they be face to face? How do we obtain signatures on IFSP's and other forms?

- a. If the school is closed, no Early Intervention Services.
- b. Confirm digitally, through text, sign and scan, or have them stop in and sign in person.
- c. Confirm that they agreed over the phone.

14. Can schools allow students taking dual-credit courses to continue taking those through the higher education entity (to obtain the college credit) without being deemed to be providing educational services that would trigger FAPE and other requirements, if all other classes/services are closed down?

- a. Yes, continue dual credit classes.
- b. Some colleges are allowing students to withdraw from dual credit classes.

- c. If high school teacher is teaching dual credit, the student can still earn college credit.

- 15. For 3-4 year old SPED students, if the school is providing education via DL to their K-12 population, but the preschool program is closed, do the 3-4 year old students receive all of their SPED services? Are these done via DL or home visit, or is it up to the individual district?
 - i. These are Part B students, so it is likely that we need to provide services to 3-4 year olds. But, if the preschool is closed, then we don't have to provide sped services. We haven't necessarily seen guidance yet.

- 16. Some teachers have heard that giving grades during school closure is against the law. I am not sure where this information came from, but can you address this?
 - i. Not true

- 17. For a school that closes and doesn't provide any instruction or other educational activities for regular students: What about students with disabilities in home school settings? Should the IEP team meet to discuss ESY? Is there an expectation that services will continue through the closure or be suspended?
 - i. The answer may change. If the LEA is closed, our obligation to provide services to private school and home school kids remain the same as we do to the public school students, nothing.

- 18. Is there advice on how best to serve students with significant disabilities?
 - i. Legal obligations are not based on the substantiality of a child's disability. This is a team decision

- 19. Revisiting the notion of a "ratio" of service minutes based upon the general education offerings...When we go to amend the IEP in the next 10 days, is it important to consider that the environment the student is now learning in is different than it was when the service minute decisions were made on the original IEP? As an example, a student may not need the same level of support they would in a large classroom given the new context. If their e-learning is provided at their instructional level, specialized instruction could look different, correct?
 - i. These should ALL be individual decisions.

20. Students in Out of District Placements

- a. Services are available for all students, regardless of placement prior to closure.
- b. If school is closed, keep paying for the out of district placement if they are open.

21. Students with disabilities who have been placed in out of district placements, regardless of whether those are residential or day programs, will pose unique issues for school districts. The Q&A makes it clear that if a residential facility closes, the local education agency remains responsible for addressing any educational needs of the students who were placed in that facility. Special educators should be proactive now to reach out to any out-of-district program that is serving students with disabilities to discuss that facility's closure protocol. School districts should also communicate with the parents of these students now to broach plans for serving these students in the event of a school closure. Schools should also reach out to their attorneys for specific guidance on how to meet their legal obligations to students in out of district placements in these circumstances.

22. As with any other areas possibly impacted by coronavirus, you should gather all of your vendor contracts to have a clear picture of the school's and the vendor's/provider's obligations, rights, and responsibilities. In the services context, you should be prepared to share your contract for services with your legal counsel to determine if it contains any provisions addressing closures, continuation or discontinuation of services during a closure, and others.

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24. What steps need to be taken for MOE compliance if that becomes an issue?

- a. A lot of exceptions will have to be considered

ESUCC Meeting
Friday, March 20
9:00 a.m. CST

Covid 19 Discussion Items

1. Professional Development Days - doing remotely, online if asked
 - a. Some schools are trying to determine how to fulfill teacher contract time and have reached out to ESUs for possible staff development.
 - i. This is in the idea stage.
 1. Other duties as assigned?

2. Payment of staff

NPERS gave an update yesterday, certified staff is covered.

ESU 7 Classified staff - pay wages, medical leave. Staff is asked to clock in and clock out. Volunteer with the community, share with the supervisor, they can clock in and out. Work+volunteer with remaining medical leave. ESU 7 did not cap on medical leave. Will review every 4 weeks.

Karen Haase shared she is concerned about school vs ESUs. Clarify in your resolution that ESU. Resolution to be in the county your main office is located.

SPED paras can't do "other duties as assigned" work - this will not be reimbursable by NDE. But if it is medical leave - it can be reimbursed. Have them do webinars that are SPED related.

Discussion on those that do not have internet at home. Some providers are offering hotspots.

Professional Development via zoom. Each ESU is different on how they are handling professional development. Affiliates want clarity on what they are to do. Prepare a common message. They want to be utilized and use technology. Each ESU and schools are uniquely different. Create a common landing page for resources to send out to teachers. Reserve some staff days to work later after this is over. Depends on how staff contracts are written if you can reserve those days.

Discussion on teachers missing their students. Provide some mental health resources for these teachers. Making connections to social/emotional wellbeing.

Need to document what we have done and will do. Create a Google Doc that we can capture. SIMPL can capture work and add in documents. Move from being a trauma and to champion the opportunity provided to us.

[HERE](#) is the LPS plan for closure for different staff groups.

3. ESU Essential Personnel
4. Educational Delivery Methods
 - a. Curated/Vetted Resources-List on ESUCC Website **USE STRONG DISCLAIMER REGARDING VETTING!** (*Do we need this?*)
 - i. *Streamline by topic*
 - ii. *ESU Agnostic (do not detail by individual ESU)*
 - b. FERPA Compliance
 - c. Education Association
5. Special Education Requirements
 - a. FERPA/HIPAA issues with Zoom
 - b. OCR
6. ESU Staff requested to go meet with School leaders
7. Decision Making Chain of Command - Governor, Commissioner, Kraig,
8. April ESUCC meeting/May PDO?
 - a. Rule 84 Meeting - postponed indefinitely
 - b. KSB Q & A:
 - i. [Here is the document to record your questions to "Stump the Chump"](#)
9. [Community Resource Plan/Follow Through](#) Email Link from NDE
 - a. ESUs will be hosts of this community response work and be announced soon by the Governor and Department of Education. ESU10 and our organizations are ahead of this curve thanks to Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

- b. I am working closely with Melissa Wheelock, ESU10 Administrator, to ensure we are not duplicating work. Melissa is very busy this week getting 33 schools up on e-learning and we hope to reconnect next week and see **what role we play to support their work and what we can hand off.**

Getting meals out to students has been the biggest need currently. Need for schools to have psychs, counselors access.

10. ESUCC Online Learning Platform - online content, zoom, to be better prepared
11. Hanover Research related to Covid-19
12. Any guidance on teacher evaluation guidance and waivers? [Justin Knight did a Zoom meeting for Board Members](#) and shared if teachers are teaching via online resources that principals can observe to get the evaluations done.

13. Other

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM

ESUCC Meeting Agenda Items

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4995643911>

[March 13 - 1:30 Central](#) - Emergency Meeting

[March 17- 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting notice](#) - ESUCC/ESPD/KSB

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[March 24 - 2:30 PM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[March 27 - 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[March 31 - 2:30 PM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[April 3 - 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[ESU Covid-19 Timeline](#)

[ESU School Meetings](#)

Tuesday, March 24

2:30 p.m. CST

[Open Meetings Act](#)

Covid 19 Discussion Items

Attendees: Bill Heimann, Ted DeTurk, Dan Schnoes, Brenda McNiff, Gregg Robke, John Skretta, Larianne Polk, Corey Dahl, Drew Harris, Melissa Wheelock, Greg Barnes, Andrew Dick, Paul Calvert, Geraldine Erickson, Sarah Salem, Connie Wickham

Absent - Deb Paulman

Geraldine Erickson left the meeting at 2:57 PM

1. Consistent School Messaging
 - a. Some schools are calling off to end of year, some to April 30
 - b. Kraig asked for a more refined message from the Commissioner.
 - c. ESU 8 - most are done for the year
 - d. County Health Departments have been great to work with.
 - e. ESU 11 - going with April 30. Schools are putting out own communications, statements
 - f. Andrews Google Document - [ESU by ESU Decision - 3-24-20](#)
 - i. To add a column for ESU office staff
 - g. ESU 17 - thought everyone was on same page and then they started changing their minds. Four of five districts are trying to provide services to students.
 - h. Discussions on rescinding health department letters.
 - i. Dr. Schnoes to share out document of his schools - Please link
 - j. Discussion on what "indefinitely" means for schools, meaning until further notice when boards meet to change.
 - k. ESU 7 - Columbus is having a weekly press conference. To share a unified message.

2. Discussions on ESUCC cancellations and/or postponements.
 - a. ESUCC/Rule 84 Joint April 9 Meeting
Commissioner agreed to postpone due to all other meetings due to Covid-19. -

From: **Blomstedt, Matt** <Matt.Blomstedt@nebraska.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 1:47 PM
Subject: RE: Postpone April 9th Rule 84 Meeting
To: Craig Lofquist <klofquist@esucc.org>, Masco, Russ
<Russ.Masco@nebraska.gov>
Cc: Rife, Laura <laura.rife@nebraska.gov>

Kraig - Let's postpone as you suggest. We can use all of these other calls as our "official" Rule 84 requirement!

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

- i. Kraig will continue to meet with NDE staff to continue to move forward.
- ii. April Board meetings to be held via Zoom
 1. April 8 - Committee 1- 3 - 30 minutes
 2. April 9 - Board Meeting at 9:00-11:00
- iii. Schedule Zoom meetings through June - Tues/Thur

Approve Indefinite Postponement Indefinitely of the Rule 84 meeting due to Covid-19 motioned by Bill Heimann and seconded by Dan Schnoes

Bill Heimann, Ted DeTurk, Dan Schnoes, Gregg Robke, Brenda McNiff, John Skretta, Larianne Polk, Corey Dahl, Drew Harris, Melissa Wheelock, Greg Barnes, Andrew Dick, Paul Calvert, Geraldine Erickson, Sarah Salem, Connie Wickham all YEAHs

- b. May ESUPDO (Kearney)
 - i. Is there a possibility to do via Zoom?
 - ii. Roast the retirees via Zoom
 - c. Other
 - d. [MSA](#) - are we ready to approve? - will need to take it to our Boards soon
 - i. Executive Committee action to move forward in April
3. Billing for SPED
- a. Discussions on how to bill for services during this time.
 - b. Miscommunication on schools not getting billed.
 - c. Keeping schedules for the district - will get invoiced. Need to pay certified staff. Paras to be paid as well.
 - d. ESU 3 - plans to pay Brooke Valley, etc. Trying to take care of services that they can provide. Plan to invoice the full amount, because that is what they are paying staff.

- e. Should ESUCC draft an agreement in case we need it or keep it autonomous. Share amongst administrators so there is the same message. If we do provide a statement, we would want legal to look at but at this time/date getting different messages, changing all the time.
 - f. ESPD to meet again but for ESUs ESPD Directors only.
4. NDE Requirements:
- a. During the NCSA zoom yesterday did others hear, "Schools will need to turn in their continuity plans to NDE - answering questions:"
 - i. What are you doing in general?
 - ii. What are you doing for students with special needs?
 - b. Should we consider CC putting together a template for the learning plans for districts? Could SDA possibly create this? Wait for more guidance from NDE.
 - c. Will the state issue a template or form or at least indicate with some specificity what the required elements of the learning continuity plans are?
 - d. Cory Epler indicates guidance and submission form are being completed by NDE today. General in nature...
 - i. I thought I heard Cory Epler state that if you need help with the Continuity Plan to contact your ESU
 - ii. If there is a plan, put together one for all ESUs to use. Kraig to discuss with Corey. Also, when the plan is due.
 - e. Related to this issue, are schools to be completing an [affidavit of closure](#) or ready to do so in event of cancellation? Has the state issued a clear message related to [Rule 10 waiver](#) of requirements?
 - f. USDOE [Continuity of Learning](#) guidance (think this was actually from H1N1)
 - g. Will these be attached to the waiver of instruction? Message is changing to yes. We are here to help as long as you continue to educate your kids.
 - h. Discussion on grades to give students at the end of year.
 - i. No Internet or taking care of sick family
 - ii. Share out ideas of what other schools are planning on doing.
5. Possible fiscal and operational implications of Families First Coronavirus Act and FMLA provisions.
- a. Concerns related to certificated personnel whose rights under new law include employees caring for son/daughter whose school or daycare has been closed due to COVID-19 precautions; meaning (possibly unintended side effect) - teachers with children birth to 17 may be entitled to take leave for duration of 'remote' school year.
 - b. Justin Knight to have a meeting at 10:00 AM on Thursday, March 26

- i. Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Are You Ready to Slash the Budget? We know your inboxes have been inundated with emails. From new guidance, employee complaints, parent questions, colleague brainstorming and more, this constant barrage can become quickly overwhelming. On Thursday, we will cut through the information overload and let you know exactly what you need to know about the new Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This new federal law will go into effect on April 2nd (one week from the webinar) and could have a major impact on school districts' budgets, beginning on the day that the law is enacted.

Join us at 10 a.m. (CT) on Thursday, March 26th for a one-hour, succinct summary of this new law. Presenter, Mr. Justin Knight, Perry Law Firm To join by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/822773716> To join by phone:

1-346-248-7799 Meeting ID: 822 773 716

6. Do we know what else NDE needs before the Dept can file an ESEA waiver?
 - a. Has there been a specific request for anything needed for this filing.
Continuity of Learning Plan submission. Several states have already filed.
7. Classified staff, wages/payments, second jobs?, sped vs. nonsped
 - a. Classified Staff - SPED PARA requesting to work other job and work on professional development models. If you are paying them 100%, the answer would be no. Volunteering is different, willing to pay them to volunteer. Possibility to adjust work hours.
 - b. Check out Sarah Salem's document
8. Have had requests to have the Sunday meeting at 2:00 PM moved to Monday at 9 CT/8 MT AM. Thoughts?
 - a. Kraig to touch base with Commissioner to see of the possibility of moving. Several would like to move to free up their Sundays. People need time to decompress, need weekend time, family quality time.
 - b. Is it possible to turn off the chat, or have a link to a different document so that they can answer at a later time.
 - c. Media was on the call - courtesy to be stated up front.
9. Legislative update
 - a. Coalition meeting today - senators are pushing their property tax cut plan. Write a letter to the newspaper in support of the two bills. Most are saying now is not the time to push these forward. Senators to pass emergency law and then adjourn. Coalition to write a letter to the OWH that this is not the time. Next projections are not to come out until July. Projecting

recovery by the third quarter of next year. Encouraging that people are starting to understand ESUs and what we do for schools.

10. Last day to submit proposals for AESA.
11. Craig Peterson was asked about COOP order concerns like toilet paper. Please let administrators know if there are shortages. Sanitary supplies are a current shortage.
12. School Statewide Mental Health Conference group to meet tomorrow to discuss mental health needs. Continue to have a conference scheduled as is and wait to make a call to change to virtually or canceling at a later date. Give thoughts to Dan Schnoes to share with the committee. ***Virtual options will be important.*** Find out from the venue when the last date to cancel. Let presenters know that may go virtual.
13. No public Comment
14. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

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[April 8 Committee/April 9 Board Meeting Schedule](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 14 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 17 - 9:00 AM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 21 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

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April 28 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

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Commissioner of Education

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ALL YAHS

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 - c. Will the state issue a template or form or at least indicate with some specificity what the required elements of the learning continuity plans are?
 - d. Cory Epler indicates guidance and submission form are being completed by NDE today. General in nature...
 - i. I thought I heard Cory Epler state that if you need help with the Continuity Plan to contact your ESU

- ii. If there is a plan, put together one for all ESUs to use. Kraig to discuss with Corey. Also, when the plan is due.
 - e. Related to this issue, are schools to be completing an [affidavit of closure](#) or ready to do so in event of cancellation? Has the state issued a clear message related to [Rule 10 waiver](#) of requirements?
 - f. USDOE [Continuity of Learning](#) guidance (think this was actually from H1N1)
 - g. Will these be attached to the waiver of instruction? Message is changing to yes. We are here to help as long as you continue to educate your kids.
 - h. Discussion on grades to give students at the end of year.
 - i. No Internet or taking care of sick family
 - ii. Share out ideas of what other schools are planning on doing.
5. Possible fiscal and operational implications of Families First Coronavirus Act and FMLA provisions.
- a. Concerns related to certificated personnel whose rights under new law include employees caring for son/daughter whose school or daycare has been closed due to COVID-19 precautions; meaning (possibly unintended side effect) - teachers with children birth to 17 may be entitled to take leave for duration of 'remote' school year.
 - b. Justin Knight to have a meeting at 10:00 AM on Thursday, March 26
 - i. Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Are You Ready to Slash the Budget? We know your inboxes have been inundated with emails. From new guidance, employee complaints, parent questions, colleague brainstorming and more, this constant barrage can become quickly overwhelming. On Thursday, we will cut through the information overload and let you know exactly what you need to know about the new Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This new federal law will go into effect on April 2nd (one week from the webinar) and could have a major impact on school districts' budgets, beginning on the day that the law is enacted.

Join us at 10 a.m. (CT) on Thursday, March 26th for a one-hour, succinct summary of this new law. Presenter, Mr. Justin Knight, Perry Law Firm To join by computer:
<https://zoom.us/j/822773716> To join by phone:
 1-346-248-7799 Meeting ID: 822 773 716
6. Do we know what else NDE needs before the Dept can file an ESEA waiver?
- a. Has there been a specific request for anything needed for this filing.

Continuity of Learning Plan submission. Several states have already filed.
7. Classified staff, wages/payments, second jobs?, sped vs. nonsped

- a. Classified Staff - SPED PARA requesting to work other job and work on professional development models. If you are paying them 100%, the answer would be no. Volunteering is different, willing to pay them to volunteer. Possibility to adjust work hours.
 - b. Check out Sarah Salem's document
8. Have had requests to have the Sunday meeting at 2:00 PM moved to Monday at 9 CT/8 MT AM. Thoughts?
 - a. Kraig to touch base with Commissioner to see of the possibility of moving. Several would like to move to free up their Sundays. People need time to decompress, need weekend time, family quality time.
 - b. Is it possible to turn off the chat, or have a link to a different document so that they can answer at a later time.
 - c. Media was on the call - courtesy to be stated up front.
9. Legislative update
 - a. Coalition meeting today - senators are pushing their property tax cut plan. Write a letter to the newspaper in support of the two bills. Most are saying now is not the time to push these forward. Senators to pass emergency law and then adjourn. Coalition to write a letter to the OWH that this is not the time. Next projections are not to come out until July. Projecting recovery by the third quarter of next year. Encouraging that people are starting to understand ESUs and what we do for schools.
10. Last day to submit proposals for AESA.
11. Craig Peterson was asked about COOP order concerns like toilet paper. Please let administrators know if there are shortages. Sanitary supplies are a current shortage.
12. School Statewide Mental Health Conference group to meet tomorrow to discuss mental health needs. Continue to have a conference scheduled as is and wait to make a call to change to virtually or canceling at a later date. Give thoughts to Dan Schnoes to share with the committee. ***Virtual options will be important.*** Find out from the venue when the last date to cancel. Let presenters know that may go virtual.
13. No public Comment
14. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Friday, March 20

9:00 a.m. CST

Covid 19 Discussion Items

Attendees: Bill Heimann, Ted Deturk, Dan Schnoes, Gregg Robke, Brenda McNiff, John Skretta, Larianne Polk, Corey Dahl, Drew Harris, Melissa Wheelock, Greg Barnes, Andrew Dick, Paul Calvert, Deb Paulman, Geraldine Erickson, Sarah Salem, Connie Wickham

Call to Order at 9:00 AM

1. Professional Development Days - doing remotely, online if asked
 - a. Some schools are trying to determine how to fulfill teacher contract time and have reached out to ESUs for possible staff development.
 - i. This is in the idea stage.
 1. Other duties as assigned?

2. Payment of staff

NPERS gave an update yesterday, certified staff is covered.

ESU 7 Classified staff - pay wages, medical leave. Staff is asked to clock in and clock out. Volunteer with the community, share with the supervisor, they can clock in and out. Work+volunteer with remaining medical leave. ESU 7 did not cap on medical leave. Will review every 4 weeks.

Karen Haase shared she is concerned about school vs ESUs. Clarify in your resolution that ESU. Resolution to be in the county your main office is located.

SPED paras can't do "other duties as assigned" work - this will not be reimbursable by NDE. But if it is medical leave - it can be reimbursed. Have them do webinars that are SPED related.

Discussion on those that do not have internet at home. Some providers are offering hotspots.

Professional Development via zoom. Each ESU is different on how they are handling professional development. Affiliates want clarity on what they are to do. Prepare a common message. They want to be utilized and use technology. Each ESU and schools are uniquely different. Create a common landing page for resources to send out to teachers. Reserve some staff days to work later after this is over. Depends on how staff contracts are written if you can reserve those days.

Discussion on teachers missing their students. Provide some mental health resources for these teachers. Making connections to social/emotional wellbeing.

Need to document what we have done and will do. Create a Google Doc that we can capture. SIMPL can capture work and add in documents. Move from being a trauma and to champion the opportunity provided to us.

[HERE](#) is the LPS plan for closure for different staff groups.

3. ESU Essential Personnel
4. Educational Delivery Methods
 - a. Curated/Vetted Resources-List on ESUCC Website **USE STRONG DISCLAIMER REGARDING VETTING!** (Do we need this?)
 - i. Streamline by topic
 - ii. ESU Agnostic (do not detail by individual ESU)
 - b. FERPA Compliance
 - c. Education Association
5. Special Education Requirements
 - a. FERPA/HIPAA issues with Zoom
 - b. OCR
6. ESU Staff requested to go meet with School leaders
7. Decision Making Chain of Command - Governor, Commissioner, Kraig,
8. April ESUCC meeting/May PDO?
 - a. Rule 84 Meeting - postponed indefinitely
 - b. KSB Q & A:
 - i. [Here is the document to record your questions to "Stump the Chump"](#)
9. [Community Resource Plan/Follow Through](#) Email Link from NDE

- a. ESUs will be hosts of this community response work and be announced soon by the Governor and Department of Education. ESU10 and our organizations are ahead of this curve thanks to Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.
- b. I am working closely with Melissa Wheelock, ESU10 Administrator, to ensure we are not duplicating work. Melissa is very busy this week getting 33 schools up on e-learning and we hope to reconnect next week and see **what role we play to support their work and what we can hand off.**

Getting meals out to students has been the biggest need currently. Need for schools to have psychs, counselors access.

10. ESUCC Online Learning Platform - online content, zoom, to be better prepared
11. Hanover Research related to Covid-19
12. Any guidance on teacher evaluation guidance and waivers? [Justin Knight did a Zoom meeting for Board Members](#) and shared if teachers are teaching via online resources that principals can observe to get the evaluations done.

13. Other

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM

ESUCC Meeting Agenda Items

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4995643911>

[March 13 - 1:30 Central](#) - Emergency Meeting

[March 17- 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting notice](#) - ESUCC/ESPD/KSB

[March 20 - 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[March 24 - 2:30 PM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[March 27 - 9:00 AM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

[March 31 - 2:30 PM Central](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 3 - 9:00 AM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

[April 8 Committee/April 9 Board Meeting Schedule](#) - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 14 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 17 - 9:00 AM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 21 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 24 - 9:00 AM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

April 28 - 2:30 PM Central - [Meeting Notice](#)

[ESU Covid-19 Timeline](#)

[ESU School Meetings](#)

Tuesday March 31, 2020

2:30 p.m. CST

[Open Meetings Act](#)

[EO-Public Meetings](#)

Covid 19 Discussion Items

Attendees: Bill Heimann, Ted DeTurk, Dan Schnoes, Gregg Robke, Brenda McNiff, John Skretta, Larianne Polk, Drew Harris, Melissa Wheelock, Greg Barnes, Andrew Dick, Paul Calvert, Geraldine Erickson, Deb Paulman (late) Sarah Salem, Connie Wickham

Absent: Corey Dahl,

Guest: Dr. Blomstedt, Zainab Rida

Call to order at 2:30 PM

Agenda Items

1. Commissioner was present to say thanks for everyone's help and support. Proud of the ESU structure and work taking place. What do schools need from an education standpoint? What questions do schools have in this next phase? Moving into phases that are looking for patterns and themes he needs to address. What are the common themes? Asking ESU Administrators to be the leaders at the local levels. The reality is that this could continue to impact us through the summer and the fall. Think through ways to organize key themes. Have themes for the Commissioner to address at his next sessions. Have a couple ESU administrators there to help answer/address the issues. Have the top three questions for each week.
 - a. ESU 4 do we send directly or send through the form. Circulate through our ESU administrators and come up with common solutions. How unique are the questions? Does it impact more than just one. Kraig to communicate the items to the Commissioner and let him know who the administrators will be on the call to help address.
 - b. On behalf of all the ESU Administrators thank you to help get us communicated out as who we are and the role we play. Governor has been using the ESUs as well. There is a mix of boundaries from ESUs to public/businesses.
 - c. When was the switch over made? When will the health department extend the dates? Things will be handled from health region/county by county as things progress. Heard April 17, 2020.
 - d. When there will be a definite "schools closed for remainder of year" Commissioner looks for this to not happen before the end of school to start opening things back up. Commissioner requested of Governor a statewide DHM approach. Just beginning to see the growth of the virus. He is also working with local health officials. He will work to get a more precise answer for the dates.
 - e. Travel authorization forms - information requiring essential personnel to have the form. The Commissioner thought that the Gov. said this is not for NE. This comes into place when there is a shelter in place order.
 - f. Reading Improvement Act - what will this look like if we are still under restrictions this summer? Commissioner might be asking the Gov. to release some requirements.
 - g. Are Superintendents going to get the format for the Continuity of Learning Plans - Email from Cory. There are two forms- one for publics and one for

non-publics. Public <https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/colp/> -
Non public: <https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/colpnp/>

2. [Boystown Report](#) - from Dr Schnoes. Data shows how it is affecting students. NDE is starting to put together stuff on social/emotional help. Send ideas/resources to Zainab.
 - a. Concerns on visibly impaired (OCR) and assistive technology.
 - b. Some ESUs sending and picking up equipment.
 - c. Contact ESU 4 NIRC center: <http://www.ncebvi.org/nirc/index.html> plus the online catalog: <https://ncebvi.klas.com/>
3. School Closing thoughts - ESU 4 - May 1 date for now — trying to figure out what to do with graduation . ESU 6 - Districts want to slow play this a little anyway because if they have to communicate the school year is "over" except for remote learning they are concerned kids may shut down on them. Just one thing I've heard repeatedly from Sups .
ESU 13 Supt. met that they will be closing for the remainder of the year.
ESU 15 Supt. met yesterday and discussed the Gov./Commissioner had the same message but was not ready to commit. Already thinking that will happen.
ESU 5 - will make the final decision by April 22. Once they decide to close for the remainder of the year bring up a whole other group of questions like how are they going to handle graduation, etc.
ESU 3 - Supts are just waiting for something more emphatic / clearer to communicate because they know parents have been utterly inundated with information from their schools.
Also from ESU 6 - John was talking with one of our Sups just before this and feeling that now fortunately since NU and some others have said no commencement exercises, it gives cover to High Schools to be able to make that announcement in the coming ...week, two weeks, whatever. That no one can say they didn't see it coming. I'm guessing some of our Sups will want the ESU just to help them coordinate pushing that message out as far as timing of it b/c if neighboring districts have different timing it will create some tension/drama.
ESU 11 - does not yet have a case in their area
ESU 9 - had its first case in Hastings yesterday so takes the date out to mid-May, past school being out of session.
ESU 2 - districts are closed indefinitely. Announced March 25, 2020
From Zainab Rida, NDE - NE Children foundation is working on providing flexible funds via Community Response systems in NE to help families purchase laptops, hotspots, cell phones, and the internet. Do you know the school districts that do not have laptops for families? We have heard Omaha and Lincoln have School systems that are providing laptops at home but the other school districts do not

have this option? Is this correct? Please let me know what you know. Thank you so much!

4. What are ESUs thinking in terms of closing entirely? Keeping staff safe and reducing the possibility of any contact? What will be the tipping point?
 - a. Any brainstorming how to do mail, accounting, etc?
 - b. ESU 6 - "Stay at home order" could be coming sooner than later.
 - c. Once ESU 13 had confirmed cases - closed offices. Restricted access to certain hours. Custodial staff will know when and where people are at in the building. The bulk of the work will be done remotely. Set hours to be able to come in and make copies.
 - d. ESU 3 - has very limited access in the building. Working to prepare to be completely out of the building. Construction workers are continuing to work. Mail going out only on Wednesday and Friday.
 - e. ESU 19 - We have Jabber loaded on PC laptops for teachers/staff so that they can call families and use their district phone numbers. We have VPN's for staff that need to remote into/onto the network.
 - f. ESU 17 - has limited staff coming into the office.
 - g. ESU 10 - has limited stay coming into the office.
 - h. ESU 9 - has limited staff coming into the office.
5. [May PDO](#) - moved to Zoom and one day only (May 6).
 - a. PD Planning Committee met this morning to discuss the modified agenda for May. Commissioner had agreed to do the opening for this day.
 - b. No Rule 84 meeting with NDE on April 9
 - c. PD Chair will be meeting next week
 - d. [April 8 Committee/April 9 Board Meeting Schedule](#)
6. Updates on SPED Billings and what if any questions have arisen on this topic with your schools
 - a. Some schools will be upset about paying their invoices.
 - b. ESUs are still giving services through telehealth so invoicing is normal.
 - c. Paying staff is the same as schools paying staff - requiring to work to continue to provide services. Expect schools to continue to pay fees.
 - d. Most have had no push back - most are saying thank you for the help.
7. Are your member schools that closed for April 30th/May 1st wanting to issue a new message for the remainder of the year based on yesterday's Commissioner's call?
8. With a State BOE coming up, will this be where the Rule 10 requirements for hours be formally waived? Supts are asking about that as well as graduation requirements.

- a. The Commissioner is going to have the NDE Board create a resolution. Continuity of Learning plan - need to submit a report. Tell them what they are going to do and at the end of the year tell them what other areas they didn't meet under Rule 10. This will include specific graduation requirements. There are a lot of right ways of doing things right now.
 - b. Would the commissioner please share the rough draft of the resolution? It will be on the website on Thursday, maybe tomorrow. He needs to meet with his President and VP to go over it.
 - c. What are ESUs going to do to help NDE to prevent having to do resolutions to adjust for viruses, floods, etc in Rule 10. Expect even snow days in the future/eLearning days.
 - i. Build a system to be proactive
 - ii. Look at how we are currently doing PD opportunities and how that can affect how we do PD in the future.
9. COOP orders? Any news that any items will be shipped late?
- a. Annual Buy deadline to order is April 9th. After that deadline, orders will be sent to the vendors. Once vendors get our orders, we may hear from them regarding delays in shipping and/or items that may not be shipped.
 - b. Promote the importance of getting orders in and approved.
10. Legislation: Heard the petition drive has been halted.
- a. Group letter to be sent out to get to Senators. Only a couple Senators saying this is a good thing.
 - b. Deadline to have signatures submitted is early July.
11. What's going to happen if/when tax receipts don't come in; unemployment rates - is this impacting your hiring for next year?
- a. Unemployment rates during this time then the highest single month
 - b. Lagging reimbursement - 12-18 months out. Hope for some stimulus money.
 - c. How is this going to affect teachers doing student teaching?
12. Adjournment at 3:56 PM