



Coronavirus Updates – April 8, 2020

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FEDERAL PROGRAMS

1. The USED is working on the release of a State application for the K-12 Educational Stabilization Fund authorized in the CARES Act. Details and a timeline are due to states no later than April 26th. We are eagerly awaiting this application, so we can work with the Governor's office and the State Board of Education to complete it, and get it submitted to the USED, and upon its approval quickly allocate the funds to districts.
2. This weekend States received a waiver template from USED for six additional ESEA waivers to include:
 - a waiver of the 15% Title I-A carryover limitation once every three years;
 - a waiver to extend the period of availability of the 2018-2019 funds for ESEA programs until 9.30.2021, which is a year longer than these funds would normally be available;
 - three waivers related to Title IV-A allocations of \$30,000 or more that include waiving the needs assessment requirement, content area spending requirement, and the 15% limit on the technology expenditures; and
 - a waiver for the definition of professional development (8101 (42)) for 2019-2020. [ESSA defines PD as activities that are "sustained" not stand-alone, one day, or short-term workshops. By waiving this definition, teachers can receive the short bursts of PD they need to learn how to provide distance learning to students.]

CHILD NUTRITION

1. Last Friday night, April 3rd, we received USDA guidance that we can now serve meals on the weekends while running the SFSP and SSO programs. This was effective on Friday; however, reimbursement cannot be retroactive. Our Q&A has been updated and put on the Governor's website.
2. There have been some concerns mentioned by schools regarding their fiscal balance. Our office contacted USDA yesterday (4/7/20) and they did confirm at this time there is no emergency money set aside from USDA for this purpose. We have heard from some groups such as the School Nutrition Association and others that are advocating on behalf for relief in this area. We will let you know when we hear more.
3. Our office has been contacted by some sites that are struggling to get food deliveries. We are in communication and partnership with the Idaho Foodbank for areas of need. As an example, we have been told that Northern Idaho is struggling with food supplies. The Idaho Foodbank is contacting their fellow foodbank organizations in that area. Please continue to share these concerns so we can work with our fellow partners to get you the resources you need.
4. Lastly, we want to share some success stories. There are so many wonderful things that are going on in Idaho during these stressful times. We apologize we cannot feature all of them due to time. As you will see from success stories, these hard-working individuals are not only CNP employees, but volunteers and many more.
 - Our community understands that our district is committed to not only the educational aspect but also the nutritional aspect of our students. We love the difference our CNP program has made in our community. Thank you for all your hard work and long hours making it available to us.
 - Bus drivers are helping cover for kitchen positions where there is a shortage of CNP staff.
 - In a single day, we served 5,942 meals (breakfast and lunch).
 - Our administration has bent over backwards to support our Child Nutrition Program. I needed help to get many things done in a very short time. I was running out of time and couldn't see how I could possibly accomplish all that I needed. One late afternoon, I sent a single email to the Superintendent, HR Director, Business Manager, Technology Dept, Main Dept., Principals and Custodial Department. I let each one of them know what I needed. Within 24 hours the list was done. Great teamwork.

Thank you everyone for your hard work.

CONTENT AND CURRICULUM

The team has been reaching out to districts and charters to continue improving support and to determine specific needs.

1. We are currently reaching out to the publishers SDE works with in our curricular materials review. We asked them to work with those of you who have purchased their materials and make available all their digital and online materials at no additional cost, if they are not already doing so.
2. We know teachers are doing a great job adapting, stepping up and learning new tools and processes in collaboration with their colleagues! There are some challenges we are hearing as well and the team is currently working on solutions.
3. Update on the coronavirus.idaho.gov/schools site:
 - Under “Online Education Resources” go to “Wide Open School”. Under “I’m and educator” select “Grades PreK-5”- you will see the “Virtual Classroom Setup” tile. We are hearing from teachers about the challenge of “how to deliver” not “what to deliver”. On this page are all the resources a teacher needs to help guide how to provide distance learning.
 - Click the “Free Distance Learning for K-2 Students and Their Families” tile for a quick summary of how to set this up. It has packets and plans ready to use or model from.
 - “Wide Open School” also has some great tools for teachers to share with parents. It gives access to families either via the internet access or the resources can be downloaded onto a USB drive and given out with packets. From “Wide Open School”, click “We’re a family”. Select “Grades PreK-5”, and select “Get Started Learning At Home”. This gives a great overview to families of what to do and how to do it. This feature includes a “daily schedule” to help keep a student on task.
 - From the drop-down menu at top again you can go to “live events” for several content areas.
4. We continue to collaborate with STEM Action Center, IDLA, and are now working with IPTV. We are developing short video clips in response to feedback, to post on social media.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. We had a webinar Tuesday, April 7th and we had over 180 participants. The webinar and all of the new resources are posted on the www.coronavirus.idaho.gov/schools site. Our next webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th from 2:00-3:00pm.
2. Today I want to showcase 2 school districts that have been very responsive to communicating with families who have special education students. Filer School District

and Lake Pend Oreille (see links below). While I'm sure there are many other districts with similar or more resources, these are just 2 that I personally have previewed. Please continue to reach out with your questions and requests for additional resources.

<http://www.filer.k12.id.us/>

<http://www.lposd.org/>

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Idaho Reading Indicator – Istation has activated their home-school curriculum for all K-5 Idaho students for reading, math, and Spanish content. We have a one-page document that explains more about the Istation school-to-home solution, including information about the parent portal on SDE assessment and accountability IRI webpage. The ISIP assessment can be a valuable tool for teachers and parents in understanding students' literacy skills – but reporting those scores would not be fair to schools or districts given the significant interruptions we have experienced this spring. Waiving the IRI assessment requires action by the governor. Until the Governor takes action on the request by the superintendent and the state board, the ISIP assessment is not available for our K-3 students. Students logging in will not see an assessment, but instead are placed into the curriculum based on their most recent progress monitoring assessment – for most students this was likely in March.
2. College Entrance Exam – The College Board is working with us to provide options for current Juniors to participate in the SAT – and we have narrowed this down to two options.
 - a. The first is to provide a voucher to our students to take the SAT on a Saturday of their choosing.
 - b. The other option is to add an SAT school day in the fall – which could coincide with the already scheduled PSAT school day in October. We want to ensure we provide an option that is accessible to all students, so we will continue our discussions with the College Board and stakeholders to make the best decision in the coming weeks.
3. ISAT Interim Assessments and Tools for Teachers – We are currently working with our ISAT vendor to configure the Interim assessments in ELA, Math and Science for remote administration. This would include using the assessment viewing application to share items during synchronous instruction – and a standardized Test administration system with a test session established by the teacher – with interim results available in AIRWAYS Reporting.

As a reminder, educators have access to formative assessment and other instructional resources in the Digital Library, which is accessible from the ISAT portal.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

1. Applications and background checks are still being processed.
2. Fingerprints are not being printed at Idaho State Police and Sherriff's offices due to social distancing. We are asking that certification applications still be submitted. This will allow us to process them as soon as we are able to receive the fingerprints. In addition, if you are hiring new employees, and are not able to get their prints, just ensure they are supervised around students until fingerprinting resumes and you can submit the fingerprint packet.
3. Professional Standards Commission is meeting this week virtually, to include Alternative Authorizations & Emergency Provisional applications.
4. ETS and American Board have closed their testing centers. As a result, we have had several questions about those that are on one-year Alternative Authorizations to pass the ABCTE assessments or Praxis. If they are not able to complete the assessments due to the testing closure, that could be an extenuating circumstance and we could do another year for the authorization. We will need to work with you on a case-by-case basis for any of these individuals. In addition, we will let you know when these testing centers are open again. Our hope is that the testing centers will be open soon.
5. We have also had questions regarding teachers who need to complete MTI/TMT course. The regional math centers are working on online options. Please let teachers know that they can reach out to their Regional Math Center to inquire about online options.
6. Lastly, we are also getting questions about educators looking at renewing this year and getting the credits completed, especially with courses being cancelled or postponed. We are currently looking into options, but for now, we recommend looking at online options through our Idaho colleges and universities. I know that ISU, BSU, U of I, and NNU have online PD opportunities for educators. In addition, there are additional online courses that are transcribed as well such as Virtual Education Software, or VESi. You can find them at <http://www.virtualeduc.com/>. Also, if the individual is employed, Idaho districts and charter schools can approve in-service hours for three (3) of the six credits.
7. As always, please let us know if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to support you.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

1. The Suicide Prevention Online Training is ready, and we will put out a press release soon.
2. Driver's education. We are getting many inquiries about the ability of public schools to begin new courses online, and delivering the driving portion at a later time. Our goal is to allow flexibility for students to continue the classroom portion of the course online, followed by the driving instruction at a later date when social distancing guidelines are relaxed. This will require a change in the driver training manual that is incorporated in administrative rule. This is being moved forward as an agenda request for the State Board of Education to consider at next Monday's meeting. We hope to have more guidance in the near future.

SCHOOL FINANCE

1. 80% of the Professional Development funds are being distributed this week. Email and worksheet to school districts will be sent this week.
2. Secure Rural Schools (Federal Forest Funds) have been received by the State Treasurer and will soon be distributed to Counties.
 - Allocation worksheets have been prepared and will be posted to the SDE remote file manager once Counties have received funds.
 - Emails with School District payment amounts will be sent once Counties have received funds.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

1. The Broadband team is continuing to provide assistance to LEAs that have identified broadband needs
 - Please contact our team if you have any questions related to broadband or need any assistance. Our team is constantly working with LEAs and providers to identify solutions and target assistance where needed.
 - For those that need to expand wireless broadband services to parking lots or other common area on campus to provide a location for students without internet to safely access resources, SDE has some funding available to assist.
 - Several LEAs have already taken advantage of this opportunity and are working with our team and have submitted a request for funding
 - Application: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/coronavirus/technology-services/Broadband-COVID-19-Assistance-Application.pdf>

- Our team is working with various providers to identify and expand the availability of open wireless hotspots in communities or free or low-cost internet resources.

Some providers have asked us to interface with district staff and identify need so that the providers know where to best target their resources.

Example: Sparklight has provided 9 open hotspots so far in various towns with several more on the way.

- We have reached out to LEAs on their behalf to help them prioritize their implementation based on the need and number of students without internet.
- They have provided a map to LEAs of the locations.
- Although they are currently open with no password, they have requested that we inform LEAs that they will be adding a password and have asked us to provide that to the LEAs for their students once it is configured to ensure that there is available bandwidth for the students.

A list of free or discounted internet solutions is posted on the

www.coronavirus.idaho.gov

website under Technology Services.

- This is being regularly updated with feedback from providers.
- We were asked to also include the information in Spanish for those families that need it, so the sheet has one page in English with a second sheet in Spanish.

If you have any needs related to broadband, please contact us and let us know how we can assist. (208) 332-6970

SCHOOL CHOICE

Alternative Summer School will still happen once the regular calendar year ends. Applications are posted on the SDE's Alternative School page: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/school-choice/alternative/>

The application needs to be submitted and approved before summer school starts. Districts might want to consider submitting two options for the session in the application. One covering if students are allowed to return to school when the session is scheduled and one that provides for if they can't.

The second option might include delaying until later in the summer or providing online instruction. As Will Goodman from IDLA mentioned, they (IDLA) are able to help plan options for you.

Two things important considerations: All students submitted for reimbursement for summer school must meet the at-risk qualifiers. The second is that Kahn Academy, Imagine Learning, EdNetics, and Plato are resources for instruction, they are not complete courses.

If you have questions about alternative summer school, please contact Michelle Clement Taylor (mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov, 208-332-6963).