

Good afternoon,

We have passed the two-month marker of working remotely and are set to enter the month of June and summertime in Central Ohio. Since the state has begun slowly reopening offices, businesses, and other entities under strict guidelines and requirements, we have reviewed what that might look like at the ESC. After careful consideration, we have determined that ESC offices are to continue being closed and operating as they currently are through at least Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. We continue to take precautions of state and local health officials seriously and want to ensure staff and visitors are able to return to a safe environment before permitting them to do so.

As stated previously, we will continue permitting staff to schedule a restricted amount of time to visit office locations to collect or drop off materials at office locations. Requests can be made through your supervisor and scheduled through Deputy Superintendent [Mike Trego](#). Please be reminded that any visit will [require responsible protocols](#) such as face coverings, handwashing, sanitizing, staggered visits, and social distancing. And of course, if you are ill and/or have a fever, please stay home and take care of yourself.

I want to continue my expression of gratitude for all that you have done through this time and are planning to do moving forward in support of children and schools. Here are more highlights of our staff meeting these challenges.

- Our Human Resources office has been meeting with Central Ohio schools human resource directors through Zoom to offer professional development as well as legal suggestions during the pandemic. In addition to the live seminars, they also have sent out weekly communications providing information on timely topics and situations human resources offices are facing.
- The Human Resources Substitute Staffing office has redesigned substitute onboarding which will soon be offered online. They have renewed 528 substitutes for 2020-2021 with an additional 105 in the pipeline.
- The Center for Student Services held a very well done virtual graduation for Campus-Based Transition program students. They also completely overhauled their end-of-school year teacher checkout system with all information being collected electronically and provided to districts securely.
- Operations staff are busy preparing our buildings for a future return to the office acquiring personal protective equipment, sanitizer and cleaning supplies, signage for new instructions, and more.
- The Business Services office continues working to keep operations moving, ensuring staff continue to be paid. They have worked to ensure vendors are paid quickly to help them in these difficult times while accounts payable staff and ESC-COG operations staff continue to serve our partner STEM Schools and KIPP Columbus Schools. And all of the spending items need to have revenue, which is supported by the accounts receivable staff working to invoice items in a timely manner.
- The Center for Technology and Digital Learning has organized and hosted multiple workshops attended by more than 600 educators throughout the state, on a variety of technology tools and apps. Eight additional sessions are planned for June.
- The State Support Team continues to host meetings for special education directors every other week while also touching base with districts in school improvement weekly.

- And OCALI continues sharing tips, resources, strategies, and stories in short, easy-to-understand video clips on a variety of topics—from learning about accessibility features in Zoom, to how to use descriptive language using alt text and audio description, to establishing routines and sharing self-care tips.

Please continue to support your coworkers, family, friends, and communities as we move forward and please take care of yourself and your own health needs. Stay well and take extra care.

Tom