

As the start of the 2020-2021 school year gets closer, I want to update you on the ESC-COG Substitute Consortium.

I know many of you are ready to return to the classroom and want to know we are providing an environment that is as safe as possible for everyone.

The ESC-COG Substitute Consortium covers a four-county area in Central Ohio. The member districts within our consortium are diverse and I expect school reopening plans will differ slightly from county to county and school to school and may change. However, we anticipate one common thread throughout all reopening plans—a mandate to wear a mask for everyone's health and safety. We have listened to your concerns and questions and want to share you with what we have done address them.

#### **New for 2020-2021**

- **Online Learning:** We recognize our employees need to be prepared to teach online. As a result, we have developed custom online courses to provide training for substitutes who are interested in being able to accept online classrooms. These courses are optional, but those who complete them will have that skill added to their profile in Absence Management. Schools will be able to search the database for substitutes with online classroom skills.
  - Sign up for the courses you'd like to complete. You will receive an additional enrollment email after you complete the form.

#### **New for 2020-2021**

- **Health and Safety:** Your health and safety are our priority as we work through these challenges and prepare to return to school. We have a new course that will be assigned to you soon. However, if you want to complete it now, you can log onto Public School Works, select the course, and enroll yourself.
  - Course M-850 *How to Protect yourself and Others COVID-19* in Public School Works
    - **If you have already been re-activated prior to this email update, you will need to complete these new courses.**

#### **New for 2020-2021**

- **Employee Communication:** To streamline our communication with all active substitutes, you will be assigned an ESC email account [<firstname.lastname@sub.escco.org>](mailto:<firstname.lastname@sub.escco.org>) starting on August 10. With this new email address, you will be required to complete a new course. This course will be assigned to you soon. However, if you want to complete it now, you can log onto Public School Works, select the course, and enroll yourself.
  - Course C-005 *ESCCO Electronic Data Security* in Public School Works
    - **If you have already been re-activated prior to this email update, you will need to complete these new courses.**

- **Updated Background Check Processes and Procedures:** Background check services resumed at the end of June with new protection and procedures in place. [Review them here.](#)
- **ESC Reopening Plans:** Our staff has been working remotely during this time to complete renewals for the 2020-2021 school year. Beginning August 10, our staff will return to the ESC. Our reopening plans are based upon the Governor’s alert system. Any changes to the Governor’s plan may change how we respond and reopen.
- **Assignment Flexibility:** We know not everyone may be comfortable in accepting assignment right now and that’s ok. You can still complete the annual renewal to substitute so when you are ready, or the COVID-19 circumstances improve, you can immediately accept assignments.

While there are a lot of unknowns we will be facing together this year, please know we are here for you and take the health and safety of our employees seriously.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or our team if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

Douglas A. Behnke  
Coordinator ESC-COG Substitute Consortium