Title I Collaborative Exchange

FALL 2020

As we connect with many of you during the COVD-19 health emergency, we recognize the overlapping needs across your student programs. The Title I team has collaborated to create this eBrief to highlight resources and practices you've found supportive during school building closures as we move through this time together.

We hope you are able to learn about strategies that may be supportive for your communities, and continue to share those you have found successful. As always, practices will look different depending on the specific needs of the students, families, and communities being served.

Our intent is to continue this collaborative exchange of ideas into the future, knowing that there will always be innovative practices to share that benefit districts cross-programmatically.

Please note: Information and resources from DPI on COVID-19 can be found here, and are regularly updated.

Family Engagement:

Districts have reported Google Voice to be a supportive medium for connecting with families. As not all families have access to a phone, Google Voice has been a way to continue, and even increase, family engagement during COVID-19. WhatsApp is another application that has been especially effective for maintaining communication with families, and was recently highlighted nationally as a useful tool in maintaining connections with English Learner students and families.

Distance learning has also created opportunities for highlighting the importance of home language development and encouraging families to support children academically through use of their home language. WIDA has produced flyers (in English and Spanish) for schools and parents to support this strategy.

Staff in residential institutions serving youth have been using Zoom to ensure families are engaged with their children and their education. This time has been powerful in connecting education staff with families and giving youth a way to stay connected to their families and home.

A resource for all families: this flier, in both English and Spanish, encourages families to stay connected with schools during school building closures.

Online Professional Development Opportunities:

The following professional development opportunities are available online and may be supportive during this time:

Wisconsin DPI's Trauma Sensitive Schools Online Professional Development Each module in this free, online, on-demand system includes modules, supplemental readings, and ready-made tools to use in classrooms. (Online, open anytime)

SchoolHouse Connection. Biweekly Virtual Conversations on COVID-19 Questions, Strategies and Information (Online on the following dates: August 25, September 3, September 9, and September 17)

Social Emotional Supports:

Districts have reported the following resources to be helpful in providing social emotional supports to students, families and staff during this time:

Center for Child Stress and Health: "The outbreak of COVID-19 is likely to be stressful for most families. Fear and anxiety about a disease or illness can be quite overwhelming and can trigger strong emotions in both children and adults. While individuals react differently to stress, typical responses during an infectious disease outbreak can include worry about the health and wellbeing of loved ones, changes in sleep or eating patterns, and the worsening of already existing medical and mental health conditions." Included in this website are several resources to help children, parents and professionals cope with and respond to the effects of COVID-19.

Breathe for Change has wellness resources for student and family wellbeing during COVID-19. The website also has wellness resources for educators to practice self-care.

Please continue to share resources and practices you've found helpful during school closures that we can highlight in the Title I Collaborative Exchange, and please follow up with us if there are resources/practices you would like more context or information on. As always, feel free to reach out to us regarding specific questions and/or assistance. You can email us at DPI.Title1@dpi.wi.gov. Thank you for all you are doing to support your students, educators, families and communities. We are in this together.

Collaborative Exchange is published by the Department of Public Instruction. To access additional resources on our programs, click on the links below:

- Title I, Part D
- EHCY (Education for Homeless Children and Youth)
- Migrant Education Program
- Educational Stability for Students in Out-of-Home Care