How are Schools Impacted by the Updated State Guidance?

CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS WITH STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS

On behalf of the Administration, CCEE hosted statewide webinars on November 19th and December 10th to engage state public health leaders in conversations regarding the latest COVID-19 trends, related state guidance, and its impact on local educational agencies.

In the most recent webinar, Dr. Erica Pan, Acting State Public Health Officer from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), shared the latest insights regarding the phased allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine, revealing that teachers and school staff will be included in Phase 1B of the proposed Phase 1 Sequence. Subsequent to Phase 1A, which allocates vaccines for healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents, Phase 1B will prioritize essential workers, which include the education sector, food & agriculture, utilities, police, firefighters, corrections officers, and transportation. Phase 1C will include adults with high-risk medical conditions. Dr. Pan also spoke on CDPH’s updated guidance on testing and its Playbook to Stand Up Community-Based Collection Sites, as it applies to schools. Click here to view the archived recording of the 12/10 webinar.

The CDPH Community Vaccine Advisory Committee will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday, December 16th from 3:00pm-6:00pm to provide input on efforts to resolve barriers to equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making. The meeting will be livestreamed via YouTube.

A Conversation with Dr. Catlin Tucker

HYBRID LEARNING: THE GATEWAY TO REOPENING SCHOOLS

Although distance learning has been the primary instructional model for many LEAs during these past eight months, hybrid learning has always been the next step along the pathway to offering in-person instruction. This month’s newsletter features tools, resources, and best practices to help educators maximize students’ learning experiences in this new era of online and blended learning, as they continue to reimagine teaching and learning through an equity lens.

Dr. Catlin Tucker, a bestselling author, international trainer, keynote speaker, course creator, and blended learning expert, defines blended learning as “the combination of active engaged learning online and active engaged learning offline” (Tucker, 2019). In a recent interview with CCEE, Dr. Tucker shares how various blended learning models can be effectively integrated in a hybrid schedule to enhance student engagement and create genuine moments of connection, while also maintaining instructional momentum.

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Released in a three-part series, the discussion will be posted on the Hot Topics page of the CCEE website, and will include Q&A text, video/audio clips, and resources. Part I will delve into the use of a flip-flop design, which supports teachers in "designing lessons for the concurrent classroom that allow them to focus on one set of learners at a time" (Tucker, 2020).

Distance Learning Consortium: Hot Topics in Distance Learning

In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, educators are continuing to adapt to evolving public health guidance to support quality distance teaching and learning. Earlier this year, CCEE partnered with a consortium of county offices to develop and share free distance learning resources, units of study, lesson plans, and professional development courses with LEAs and COEs across the state.

Although some LEAs may have planned for or are currently implementing a hybrid learning model, the possibility of implementing a distance learning only model is becoming more of a reality for many LEAs due to potential COVID-19 outbreaks. To address these ongoing areas of need for LEAs, CCEE continued its partnership with the Distance Learning Consortium (DL) to design and develop a “Hot Topics in Distance Learning” series. Designed to leverage valuable resources, tools, and strategies vetted by the field, each “Hot Topic” includes recorded sessions and a toolkit with actionable resources that educational stakeholders can learn from and implement immediately. With teachers comprising 45% of the participants in the DL Consortium webinars hosted in August, CCEE tapped into the expertise of teachers and school administrators from the DL Consortium county offices to build out these resources. “Hot Topics” include the following:

- Distance Learning for Historically Marginalized Populations - San Diego COE
- Distance Teaching and Learning Best Practices - Kern CSOS
- Multi-Tiered SEL and Mental Health in Distance Learning - Orange CDE
- Leveraging Family Engagement to Foster Student Success in Distance Learning - San Bernardino CSS

Resources from the “Hot Topics in Distance Learning” series are now available on CCEE’s Distance Teaching and Learning page.