

SCC Campus Reps. Zoom Mtg.
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020
Q & A

(Questions from the Chat are at the bottom)

Francisco ES

1. I am very concerned with the Reading Academy requirements for this year. The modules take hours to complete and there are 12, plus the training is very time consuming and on the weekends. With everything that is already on our plates this year, this is a stress that we need to be relieved of.
Is there anyone than can speak for the teachers and appeal to TEA for an extension?

- A. Birdville ISD has a TEA-approved comprehensive program model which is under a legally binding contract. This contract requires face-to-face training. Birdville had to submit a special request to TEA to hold the first session online. That request was granted only on the basis that all other sessions follow the comprehensive model.

Birdville ISD front-loaded all of the PD days in order to provide time to teachers to learn Canvas and all that we needed to do to go online the first two weeks of school.

It is not possible to pull teachers out of class now because we cannot cover the substitute requests. We are currently experiencing a challenge in covering the sub requests without adding such large requests for subs to train four cohorts.

These constraints led to the decision to hold the required face-to-face trainings on Saturdays and to increase the pay to \$125 and provide lunch for each training date.

Birdville will continue to monitor the situation and if there is relief to these constraints, we will adjust the schedule accordingly.

Shannon HS

2. **Will Birdville employees be affected by Trump's Tax Deferral Plan?**

- A. No, employees will not be impacted by the tax deferral plan. The tax deferral is for Social Security tax deductions only. District employees are not subject to Social Security taxes.

Walker Creek ES

3. Teachers are under a huge amount of stress and pressure right now to teach and plan due to the Hybrid model. **Has BISD considered having their instructional coaches and curriculum specialists prepare weekly lessons for us for all subjects for us to put into seesaw for our online learners? If so, how soon can we expect to see these lessons ready for us?**
 - A. Instructional coaches and curriculum content coordinators are working to prepare digital resources, activities, and learning supports. We have also contracted with outside vendors to produce some additional resources. These resources will be housed in the curriculum and can be used to develop lessons in Canvas. Additionally, we have provided locations for teachers to share and collaborate lessons in both Canvas and Seesaw. We will not be writing full lessons.

Haltom MS

4. **Will the Middle Schools be getting GoGuardian or something similar that allows the teacher to see the computer screens of the students in that class?**

A. The District licensed GoGuardian for use at high schools and to allow teachers to monitor assessments that impact GPA and class rank, not for daily monitoring of student screens. For the high schools only, the cost was \$45,000 per year, and unfortunately, we don't have the funds in our technology budget to purchase for middle or elementary schools.

Birdville ES

5. We know the COVID update page is a work in progress. We would like to know how many students/staff are in quarantine, not just active cases. We hear around the district what schools have a classroom, grade level, or sports team on quarantine — if we are in the grapevine. **Do you plan to add quarantine information to this page?** We would feel more comfortable if we had a bigger picture of what's going on.

A. There is not a plan to add quarantine to the COVID-19 dashboard. Since not all quarantines are a result of exposure at school, the numbers might not reflect a realistic picture.

Snow Heights ES

6. Our campus has experienced sub jobs not being filled (non COVID-related absences) and has had to utilize other staff to cover for these classes. **What is the district's plan to ensure that jobs will be filled each day? In addition, what is the expectation of teachers in regards to remote learning when a teacher is out and is unable to participate with students?** We have been told that the teacher's teammates are supposed to cover for the students who are working remotely, but there are many hardships that come with that plan. It adds many more tasks to our already overflowing plates as well as the possibility that we are not familiar with the curriculum that is being taught (departmentalized grades). **What are we supposed to do if we are sick and unable to teach our online students?**

A. We are working collaboratively with other campuses for those absences that are long-term due to illness, FMLA or other reasons. For example, we have a campus that has a teacher who needs to be out long-term and we are moving the online students to be taught by another campus while the teacher is out.

ATPE

7. Birdville is currently allowing general education students in the online setting to attend extracurricular events. **Has the District discussed allowing Special Education students that same option but with their therapists?** OT, PT, etc.

A. Currently, we are not offering that option to students who are receiving their instruction remotely. Therapists are in regular contact with parents to provide services to their students. ARD committees are being convened to address any modifications that need to be made to a student's IEP while still ensuring that we are providing FAPE.

North Ridge MS

8. I have been quarantined with my daughter for the next 14 days. When I went to put in the absences, it was very confusing as to how to code it. **Is there any way a new category could be added for COVID-related absences?**

Also, how will this affect my days? I will be working from home. I am staying home since I am her guardian. This is a crazy time, it's possible this won't be the last time I may have to quarantine. I'm not wanting to lose all of my days.

- A. The District does have COVID-19 codes used by the District payroll department. Employees should enter either a personal leave or sick leave code into Frontline at the time of absence. Once all of the paperwork has been received and approved by Human Resources, payroll staff will replace the original leave with the proper COVID-19 code. The codes are based on the type of COVID-19 leave applied. The following link includes the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA") information. >[View FFCRA](#)

The first 10 days will be covered by FFCRA as long as it is for the stated reasons.

Chat from Sept. 24 SCC Zoom Meeting

Snow Heights ES

1. **Dr. Brown, can you share your exact words so we can share with our campus?**

A. **From Mark Thomas:** I will work to get a copy of Dr. Brown's comments.

Francisco ES

2. **Has anyone thought about appealing to TEA for an extension on behalf of the teachers due to the circumstances?**

A. **From Dr. Clark:** We have three years to train all elementary teachers through third grade. The comprehensive model requires face-to-face professional learning, face-to-face coaching, and artifacts from the teacher to demonstrate that the content being taught is being implemented. These artifacts will be graded both inside and outside the District. There is no appeal unless the state changes the model. We are under contract with ESC 11 and our plan is a compliance document. It was approved by TEA and ESC 11 is monitoring what we do.

North Ridge ES

3. My campus would like to publicly thank the district for the \$100 for each teacher to help purchase items for our class. This has been a big help.

Spicer ES

4. **Are there special forms you have to fill out to get the FFCRA days?**

A. **From Katie Bowman:** The forms are found at [FFCRA Forms](#)

Watauga ES

5. My ELAR team would like to say thank you for the recorded lessons that have been created for us. Those will be very helpful!

A. **From Dr. Clark:** All of our coordinators are working hard to develop resources, videos, and activities. Thank you, Daphne, for recognizing all the work that Teresa Lawson has done. The Curriculum Previews will highlight this work and other content areas where we have some amazing resources.

BCTAL

6. **Do we have a number or percentage of students positive/quarantined established for a campus shutting down?**

A. **From Mark Thomas:** No. If a closure is needed, Tarrant County Health will work directly with individual campuses or districts. Their dashboard can change daily based on various factors and should not be the one tool used to make decisions.

BISD is now updating their dashboard numbers daily.

From BCTAL: Thanks Dr. Brown! Sorry, that was a question I just got from someone at my campus!!