

Lisa Cataldi

From: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: FW: Distance Learning Education
Attachments: image005.jpg

From: Darilyn Gorton [mailto:darilyngorton@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:18 PM
To: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: Re: Distance Learning Education

From: msgorton@gmail.com [mailto:msgorton@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Darilyn Gorton
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov
Cc: james.langevin@mail.house.gov; sheldon.whitehouse@whitehouse.senate.gov; Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: Distance Learning Education

In this time of distance discussions, I would love to have access to documentation, presentations, or possible topics of discussions to better address the board before the meeting.

I am currently a middle school educator who is very concerned about what the next school year may look like. I have reviewed the CDC guidelines and based upon their recommendations, I could not even host more than half of my normal class size. I have also heard recommendations regarding having teachers rotate classrooms instead of the students. Again, I teach middle-level students who are often touchy-feely and often react before they think. This concerns me greatly. I can not imagine leaving students alone, unsupervised for any length of time. How will we accommodate them and keep them safe?

Another solution I heard was to teach a smaller selection of students, while the others are distance learning. I am concerned because many of students do not currently work on their assignments during the "school day. If they do and need more support then how will they get timely information?

In addition, during this new normal, I am on meets, emailing students, parents, conferencing with team members, special support staff,

modifying lessons, revising lessons, and grading. My current workweek went from five days per week, to six to seven for ten-hours per day. How will I split myself between the students in front of me and those at home?

Again, I teach middle school so please think back to when you were that age. The majority of my students check into attendance, however a good portion complete less than fifty percent of their work. Even with meetings, video "lessons" and review materials, students easily give up when things become too difficult or they need extra support and can not get it instantaneously. Their completion of an assignment is often missing components, or they have skipped the directions to get their work done so they may do other things. On average, I am having about a fifty to sixty percent success rate on fifty percent of the curriculum students would normally get.

I would like you to consider how could you get the Governor and local cities, towns, and businesses to help during this next school year. If the Governor could utilize buildings such as the Convention Center, couldn't we utilize spaces such as these to set up classrooms? Would it be possible to reuse closed school buildings that while not 100% compliant, be reopened temporarily to house smaller groups of students?

Obviously we would need the support of the State Legislators, the Governor's office to help fund and support this initiative. However, if we are able to fund empty field hospitals, shouldn't we be able to use those same ideas to find locations to social distance of our students? We must think outside of the box to ensure all students, especially those who are most vulnerable get the best services.

While something is better than nothing, we owe it to our students to provide them with the best opportunities over the next year.

Darilyn Gorton

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