Return-to-Learn Support Structure

May 14, 2020

Iowa Department of Education

AEA | Iowa's Area Education Agencies

Return-to-Learn Support Structure

To ensure we have the products and supports necessary for districts/schools to complete their required Return-to-Learn Plan, the Iowa Department of Education and the area education agencies (AEAs) are working collaboratively on work teams focused on specific areas of the work referred to in the [Return-to-Learn Support Document](#) (released on May 8th as an optional companion to the [Return-to-Learn guidance](#)). The timeline for resources, materials, online modules, and support is provided in Table 1 below. The teams, purpose, and deliverables are provided in Table 2 below. Please visit the [Return- to-Learn Support Google site](#) for up-to-date information.

Table 1. Timeline of Return-to-Learn Deliverables.

	May	**June**	**July**	**August**
What	First dissemination of resources, materials, online modules, and support across all teams with the exception of special education.	First round of dissemination across special education. Second round of dissemination across the remaining teams.	All teams working to complete resources and refine training.	Coordinated training provided statewide. Training is optional.
How	District and school support provided via webinar every Thursday from 1-2 pm.	District and school support provided via webinar every Thursday from 1-2 pm.	District and school support provided via webinar every Thursday from 1-2 pm.	District and school support provided via webinar every Thursday from 1-2 pm. Additional methods TBD.

Table 2. Teams, Purpose, and Deliverables.

Team	Purpose	Deliverables
Return-to-Learn Coordination	Coordinate the work across teams to ensure alignment and coordinated delivery statewide.	1. Establish intensive timelines and meeting check-ins across teams. 2. Support teams to develop work plans. 3. Establish training schedules, timeline of content, and delivery. 4. Coordinate completion of tasks across teams.
Required Continuous Learning*	Identify or develop resources and training on technology and distance learning for teachers/staff. *This team also has leads on the statewide online platform.	1. Resources on distance learning. 2. Training for teachers/staff on: • Access to and use of different technology and distance learning options; • Engaging learners in distance learning options; • Privacy and FERPA in online learning; • Transitioning materials to an online format; and • Supporting families in supporting their children in online learning.

Team	Purpose	Deliverables
Leadership and Infrastructure	Identify or develop resources and training to support leadership teams to develop, implement, and monitor Return-to-Learn plans, including the professional development needed for teachers/staff.	1. Resources on Leadership and Infrastructure. 2. Training and/or support in how to: • Establish a District Leadership Team (DLT); • Use a Continuous Improvement process to develop, implement, and monitor the Return-to-Learn Plan; • Develop and support an effective communication plan; • Plan for organizational needs (e.g., district/school calendar, attendance, promotion/grades, and technology); and • Develop, implement, and support efficacy of professional development.
Health and Safety	Identify or develop resources and training on how to ensure the health and safety of teachers/staff, students, and families in schools.	1. Resources on how to support health and safety of teachers, staff, students, and families. 2. Training for administrators/teachers/staff on how to: • Ensure workplace safety; • Support mitigation strategies (including Online Mitigation modules); and • Monitor the health and safety of teachers/staff, students, and families.
Iowa Academic Standards (Equity)	Identify or develop resources and training on how to accelerate and support learning via Required Continuous Learning, Hybrid, or On-Site Learning in the context of COVID-19 learning loss.	1. Resources on teaching standards in the COVID-19 environment. 2. Training for teachers/staff on how to: • Assess initial student learning needs, • Match curriculum to student needs, and • Accelerate student learning using effective instruction matched to student needs.
Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health (Equity)	Identify or develop resources and training on how support the social-emotional-behavioral health (SEBH) needs of teachers/staff, students, and families.	1. Resources on support for teachers/staff and resources for teachers/staff to support students/families. 2. Develop a Student Interaction Tracker. 3. Training for teachers/staff on how to: • Provide support for teacher/staff SEBH needs, • Provide support for student SEBH needs, and • Provide support for families to access needed resources.
Special Education	Ensure equity in access and progress on goals in Iowa Academic Standards and social emotional learning for students with	In addition to resources and training developed and embedded in other task teams: 1. Resources for: • Ensuring appropriate access to—and

Team	Purpose	Deliverables
	disabilities.	equity of—Iowa's Academic Standards and other needs as the result of the disability and • Establishing and using criteria for determining what methods of delivery students will receive (Required Continuous Learning, Hybrid, or On-Site Learning). 2. Training and support in how to: • Determine virtual and hybrid methods of providing services and • Hold virtual IEP meetings, plan, and provide virtual and hybrid services, including progress monitoring.
Data	Identify or develop the data needed for districts and schools to monitor Return-to-Learn Plan implementation.	1. Develop the following in coordination across task teams: • Resources and Needs Survey, • District and Community Capacity template, and • Mitigation Survey. 2. Develop the data needed to ensure effective implementation and support of the Return-to-Learn Plan (see 7. Data Considerations in the Return-to-Learn Support Document).

Additional Guidance

For additional COVID-19 guidance and information, please visit the Department's COVID-19 webpage and/or the Return-to-Learn Support Google site.