

SUPPORTING SENIORS DURING COVID-19
Cross State High School Collaborative
April 16, 2020

Zoom Video Recording Link: [https://youtu.be/ EWQ1k9f5-M](https://youtu.be/EWQ1k9f5-M)

Resource links from PPT:

- ExcelinEd: <https://www.excelined.org/covid-19>
- The Aspen Institute webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I30cwiViS-C8vbZZKBQzJA?mc_cid=1fbccdde52&mc_eid=61c31264bd
- How to Keep Students Connected: <http://new.every1graduates.org/keeping-secondary-school-students-connected-to-school-when-schooling-is-remote/>
- HS Redesign website: <http://www.hsredesign.org/covid19/>
- JHU Education COVID-19 Resources: <https://education.jhu.edu/covid-19-education-resources/>

Even with graduation requirement flexibility, some seniors will need support to graduate. How can we provide that support?

- Our school has developed a Senior Phoenix Group to sign up to help be a support to the seniors that need it. Each teacher signed up for one to two seniors to contact twice a week
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- Building administrators & school counselors are making weekly calls to parents/guardians of seniors who still are in "limbo"
Laurie Buchieri, Principal, Canal Winchester HS, Canal Winchester, OH
- Daily check-ins
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- Teachers, counselors, principals zoom meetings and phone calls,
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- Senior Phoenix Group is based in Cincinnati Ohio.
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- We're starting Saturday classes this weekend. I am going to work with about 10 seniors and use Google Classroom. I will be in close contact with them and nag them continuously.
Marilyn Ramirez, High School for Media & Communications, NYC
- Individual plans for every senior to support graduation requirements for each individual.
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM

How are you getting in touch with students?

- We have created a group chat to communicate with seniors and their parents. We have a small class so we are working out plans for how we will do graduation.
Milton Hardrict, Principal, Northside HS, Shelby, MS
- Struggling to find some but we have systems to get the support of others
Mariela Graham, Arts & Tech, NYC
- Success with contacting parents/guardians. Struggle to get hold of student(s) directly,
Laurie Buchieri, Principal, Canal Winchester HS, Canal Winchester, OH
- Our students are very tech savvy, so we've been able to contact our students via phone, but most by Edmodo (<https://new.edmodo.com>)
Deanne M Austin, Assistant Principal, Yazoo City High School, Yazoo City, MS
- Home communication issues are a constant with many of ours even in the best of times,
John Newman, Bonabel HS, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Are schools able to access their Attendance officers to make home visits to find the 'missing' seniors
Michele Timmons, EnvisionEd Plus, OH
- Contacting most, we have been unsuccessful for only a few
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- Our biggest struggle is technology for all students and continued instruction.
Milton Hardrict, Principal, Northside HS, Shelby, MS
- We also have a shared file to write notes on all our students
Marilyn Ramirez, High School for Media & Communications, NYC
- Remind 101 (<https://www.remind.com/>),
Charlene Myers, Principal, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- Superintendents are contacting seniors via email with a video and email letter to encourage and motivate the senior class, despite the current circumstances
Felicia Walker, TDS, Jacksonville, FL
- Google Voice (<https://voice.google.com/>) has been great!
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- Facebook, twitter, onecalls (<https://www.onecallnow.com/>).
Laura Tompkins, Principal, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- We have Edmodo, Google Classroom, and we have district led social media pages,
Deanne M Austin, Assistant Principal, Yazoo High school, Yazoo, MS
- Facebook and email
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- We use Schoology (<https://www.schoology.com/>) but some have connectivity issues,
Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo, NY
- We use Schoology and create a group for seniors, Native Americans, Latinx and swd.
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- Know one school using social media to spotlight seniors so some students have reached out to make sure they are included in that social media spotlight...otherwise they have not been able to reach some of those seniors.
Tara Madden, TDS, New Orleans, LA

- Ferriday High is using Facebook to spotlight Seniors.
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- We are using social media to spotlight seniors as well.
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- In a non-tech way, we have our teachers sending positive postcards to our seniors.
Charlene Myers, Principal, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH

Now that flexibility has been given with graduation requirements, what are some of the ways that students are allowed to demonstrate their knowledge?

- Some of us have used APEX (<https://www.apexvs.com>),
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- We also have teachers who are being flexible with how students can show their knowledge as well.
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview HS, Cincinnati, OH
- We are using PBL (<https://www.pblworks.org>) and teaching online synchronous and asynchronous formats. Also online using edgenuity (<https://www.edgenuity.com/>).
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- We're starting to introduce videos, such as tik tok. Creating memes, too.
Marilyn Ramirez, High School for Media & Communications, NYC
- Non tech ways are needed
Tara Madden, TDS, New Orleans, LA
- At this point work is not required and no grades are being given in Jefferson Parish. There is no accountability in terms of having the students complete work. Technology gaps continue to be an issue for many students
Savannah Napier, Bonabel HS, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Developed comprehensive projects that can cover many levels within a core area.
Laura Tompkins, Principal, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- Yes, also memes and gifs submissions
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- We have paper packets that are available for pick up at sites at designated times for students that do not have access to devices. Then we have online options for students that do have devices.
Tori Huber, Guidance Counselor, Riverview HS, Cincinnati, OH
- On the Early Warning Systems ECHO call earlier this week, I heard one New Mexico middle school is using the strategy to leave packets for pick up at the local grocery store for those who can't make it to the designated pickup place/time.
Hannah Peria, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University

- I know a district that has partnered with a local newspaper. The paper donated a bunch of newspaper vending machines to the district and they are placed in front of schools. Kids can pick up packets at their convenience now.
Michele Timmons, EnvisionEd Plus, OH
- My daughter has had to take pictures of her projects and submit them...Multiple pictures showing the steps as they are being completed of her completing the project...It's for an AP course so feedback is crucial as AP exams are coming soon..... Also, a lot of her assignments and assessments are FRQ's (Free Response Questions) that require them to explain and elaborate on answers for teachers to again, provide meaningful support...No multiple choice questions anymore...
Felicia Walker, TDS, Jacksonville, FL

Supporting seniors who will graduate but did not secure a placement... How can we support seniors who currently lack a postsecondary placement? This spring? This summer? Next year?

- When I started the senior spotlight, several seniors were beginning to apply online to our local institutions and emailing me to send transcripts.
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- We have all students apply to the community college in January
Nancy Post, Counselor, Miyamura HS, NM
- All seniors applied earlier in the year. We are having more difficulty getting the kids to accept their offers now that we cannot physically do it with them.
Tori Huber, Guidance Counselor, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- In Cincinnati, each Friday, schools (through School Counselors) have to report enrollment, enlistment or employment drilled down to the student by student level. Counselors are working with students to assist in the post-secondary placement of their choice.
Michael Turner, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH.
- Some of our internship students have been offered jobs and their college will be paid for.
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- Students apply online and we are sharing virtual college tours.
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- In addition to our counselors we have a local access network who is very active in trying to reach out to all seniors in our county.
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- In GA, colleges/universities have waived SAT/ACT requirements this year. Mississippi State Department of Education, Instructional Coach. *Curt R Green*
- We've had College Applications Days (October and Feb.) All seniors have been accepted to at least one 2 or 4 year college. Since most colleges have waived certain criteria, we have a virtual application day scheduled for April 24. We also have virtual FAFSA day scheduled.
Roderick Smith, Principal, Wingfield HS, Jackson, MS
- San Juan college has created a YouTube video for our students to apply, etc.
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM

- Another struggle we are having is with the students that are starting careers as opposed to college. With most companies on a hiring freeze, we are having difficulty finding jobs students can apply and interview for. With the exception of FedEx and UPS who have hired a number of our students.
Tori Huber, Guidance Counselor, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- Our Senior Econ/Gov teacher has been exposing our seniors to the application and financial aid system since October. So, 85-90% of our seniors have been accepted into 2-4 year institutions. We also have had some seniors speak with recruiters and make the decision to enter into the armed services.
Deanne M Austin, Assistant Principal, Yazoo City High School, Yazoo City, MS
- We've had counselors hosting zoom meetings with parents to review FAFSA processes even though that grad requirement has been waived for LA graduates.
Anne Katherine Lene, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Are people hearing about students who have been accepted, but are reconsidering, or perhaps deciding to stay locally?

- We have students considering staying locally
Nancy Post, Miyamura HS, Miyamura, NM
- This is a big challenge for everyone. In Ohio we don't even know if the schools will be face to face or on-line in the fall. Nor are we sure whether things like dorms will be open in the fall.
Michele Timmons, EnvisionEd Plus, OH
- We have not gotten to this point with our seniors yet. I think there are too many unknowns right now
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM

How can we support seniors during COVID-19? Other concerns?

- Supporting them with depression and mental health issues.
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- Social emotional support for missing out on graduation ceremonies and senior traditions that they are missing out on.
Valerie Ratliff-Parker, Teacher, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- New Mexico is emphasizing Pass/Incomplete grades and at least 50% SEL support vs. academic support,
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- The emotional aspect of this has been a focus for some students. We have to try to figure out how to meet the therapy needs of some students with mental health partners.
Michael Turner, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH.

- And also extending the time frame for seniors to complete graduation requirements
Caz Martínez, Executive Director/Principal, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- Pass/Fail doesn't necessarily meet the requirements for NCAA rules - does anyone know if the NCAA is adapting?
Michele Timmons, EnvisionEd Plus, OH

Are there any considerations going on for graduation to help seniors through that?

- Our district has discussed doing a virtual graduation.
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- We are working on a plan, possibly virtual graduation, or pushing back to July as well.
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- Our school though would like to do something more once social distancing is lifted.
Natalie Seybold, Spanish Teacher, Riverview East HS, Cincinnati, OH
- Apparently our parish (Bonnabel HS, Jefferson Parish) has set in person graduation dates in July.
John Newman, Bonnabel HS, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Ferriday High - we are considering a drive thru graduation.
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- We are discussing a traditional graduation ceremony once the distancing guidelines are lifted. We are fully committed to holding it, even if it is in 2022.
Nate Pierantoni, Farmington Municipal Schools, Farmington, NM
- Have schools and districts fully fleshed out their messaging to students, parents and the community for seniors that do not graduate - with all the flexibilities provided?
Sonja Robertson, Mississippi Department of Education.
- We are planning our valedictorian, salutatorian, and class president giving inspirational messages until a traditional graduation can be planned.
Laura Tompkins, Principal, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- We want to do something virtually on the date graduation was supposed to happen and then schedule something when the stay at home order is lifted.
Betty Caw, School Counselor, Zanesville HS, Zanesville, OH
- Signs are posted on the football field or around the school and you drive thru to look at them.
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- Some schools in NY are sending homemade posters and signs home to students that can be placed in their front window/on the front door/in the yard/by mailbox that says "a 2020 graduate lives here". Just a way to recognize students for this rite of passage.
Laura Tedesco, New York State Education Department.
- Signs include a picture and bio of students.
Elsa Carter, Admin/Teacher, Ferriday HS, Ferriday, LA
- Drive-in graduation.
Felicia Walker, TDS, Jacksonville, FL

- I heard of a school looking into the feasibility of using a drive-in movie theater for graduation and trying to figure out if they project each student on the screen when their name was being read.
Eli Pristoop, Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA
- Wondering how public broadcasting stations might support graduation events or ceremonies?
Tara Madden, TDS, New Orleans, LA

What additional topics would you like to explore through these forums?

- How we are managing or supporting staff and students
Peter Deswood, Principal, Rocinante HS, Farmington, NM
- Topics - how are we supporting teachers with... technology, mental health, self-care
Tara Madden, TDS, New Orleans, LA
- What innovations are being used to grab the students who have yet connected with teachers?
Kevin Eberle, Math, Science, & Technology High School, Buffalo, NY
- Advancing PD for teachers re: virtual classroom best practices
Nate Pierantoni, Farmington Municipal Schools, Farmington, NM
- How to approach next year to recoup knowledge and program loss, (transitioning back into social and academic needs)
Valerie Ratliff-Parker, Teacher, Las Montañas Charter HS, Las Cruces, NM
- I think, moving forward, many schools need to really have a push for 100% tech/internet access and proficiency with pertinent software. Figuring out logistics on that could be a worthwhile topic
John Newman, Bonnabel HS, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Topics - how to engage students with social distancing - what the new school year may look if social distancing is still in place - helping faculty/staff avoid burnout - virtual education & assessment best practices
Anne Katherine Lene, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
- Topics- helping teachers support students in distance learning environments
Stephanie Dixon, East Baton Rouge, LA