

REMEMBER
WHY YOU
STARTED

Deep Breaths

By:

kb

Friday, March 26th, 2021

Friday Recap

Sara

00:00

Discussed the outlook on the future of education and addressing kids' invisible backpack when they return to school...

- Deep breaths.
- The future of education is bright, but let's take what we have learned during the COVID-era to help us improve education. Now is a time to be flexible and continue to innovate. Meet kids where they are.
- Labor implications are coming - it will be a struggle at times, but be flexible and innovative.
- Keep mental health and social-emotional health at the fore-front of decision making.
- Kids are resilient, but they are carrying trauma from this year. Their invisible backpacks are heavy and will need to be unloaded before real learning can effectively take place again.

Kevin

14:00

Discussed federal procurement rules and considerations in preparation for spending American Rescue Plan funds . . .

- The American Rescue Plan funds (ARTP ESSER) will need to be spent in compliance with GATA procurement compliance and audit rules.
- School Code bidding rules and GATA rules both need to be complied with. Even purchases that may fall outside of a bidding requirement for School Code purposes may require you to still get quotes to justify your purchase.
- Disposal of goods purchased with federal funds requires government approval.

Rob

24:00

Discussed NCAA/Title IX and Sex Equity matters in reaction to recently publicized inequities in the NCAA basketball tournament...

- Title IX does not apply to the NCAA because the NCAA does not take federal funds, but the disparity in the tournament experience and facilities at the men's and women's NCAA Tournaments is a reminder that we should be remembering our obligations to sex equity in schools.
- ISBE has sex equity regulations that are in addition to the Title IX regulations, too.

Steph

31:00

Discussed hot legislation being debated by the Illinois General Assembly . . .

- Tune-in to hear Stephanie, Sara, and Rochester Superintendent Dan Cox at the April 7th IASA Conference where they will talk about the positives school leaders can take from the COVID-era.
- If you need Title IX training or administrator academy credits, check out the IPA's upcoming Title IX trainings Stephanie is presenting in the coming weeks.
- Discussed HB 219 - HB 577 - SB 1480 - HB 7 - SB 1821

Elizabeth

44:00

Discussed American Rescue Plan Funds guidance issued by the US Department of Education to SEAs and LEAs . . .

- U.S. Department of Education Guidance issued last week and posted online by ISBE this week.
- Big take-aways in the guidance suggest schools should be prepared to be back and open for in-person next Fall.
- A big push to use the funds to get facilities upgraded, expanded, and improved.
- Remember that ARP is a stimulus bill.

Darcy

56:00

Discussed vaccine progress and communicable disease task force and committee membership requests

- Illinois is at 15.41% fully vaccinated; compared to the national average of 14.3%.
- 26% of Illinoisians have received at least one shot
- Moderna and Pfizer are testing the vaccine on younger populations now. We are a couple of months into trials on kids ages 12 through 18 and just this week trials started for kids 6 months to 11 years old.
- IDPH is updating the variant tracking on its website. We should watch the California variant right now, per the data.
- If you get a call about Chronic and Communicable disease task forces and/or committees, or get a FOIA request about the work these task force/committees are doing, we are here to help. Refer to your PRESS Policy 2:150 for details on what your district should be doing.

"Whatever you are, be a good one."
— Abraham Lincoln

Enjoy Good Friday!

We will resume on April 9th.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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