

REMEMBER
WHY YOU
STARTED

Deep Breaths

By:

kb

Friday, January 8th, 2021

Friday Recap

Sara

Discussed and opened the call with. . .

- Deep breaths.
- A major reform bill impacting education is currently being considered in the lame duck legislative session. There will likely be lots of negotiations and changes and we will keep you posted as it progresses.
- As more districts utilize onsite COVID testing, know the requirements based on the type of test you are considering and remember it is one component of a comprehensive mitigation strategy.

Cassie

Discussed ESSER II funding. . .

- Illinois was issued its allocation of the second round of COVID relief funding and schools have been provided with preliminary allocations this week and funds may potentially be received by the end of the month.
- ESSER funds are allocated by the Title I formula but there is broader flexibility in spending, as these funds are not subject to Title I requirements.
- Funds may be used to address needs such as learning loss and preparing for in-person learning.

Elizabeth

Discussed the IDPH updated exclusion decision tree and guidance. . .

- IDPH has provided updated guidance based on CDC recommendations, but decisions about quarantine timelines are left up to local health departments.
- Other updates include definitions of an outbreak, guidance on necessary documentation to return to school, guidance on travel, and an updated exclusion chart.

Sara

Discussed staffing plans for next year. . .

- The pandemic may result in changes to your staffing plan for next year.
- Districts should be thinking about the staffing plan now, including the need for a Reduction in Force and changing job descriptions.
- It is important to collaborate with the union now about any potential changes for next year.

Laura

Discussed FAQs about special education during COVID. . .

- We have seen an increase in state complaints and due process requests related to the pandemic and districts tend to be in a good position to defend these claims when they have good documentation, use data, and provide clear communication.
- Districts should anticipate requests for grade retention due to the pandemic and should be aware of and follow the district's typical process to respond to these requests.

Darcy

Discussed vaccine schedule updates. . .

- Illinois is currently providing vaccines to individuals in group 1a, but should be moving to group 1b soon.
- Educators are second in line in group 1b, following first responders, and we anticipate more information about what this will look like soon. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

See you next week.

On Friday, January 15 th.

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

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Questions for call:

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