

Summary of Oct 9 Friday Recap

Thank you for joining us for our Friday Recap. Below is a summary of the major topics that we covered. We look forward to recapping the week with you every Friday!

General Information:

- 4 out of 5 KB attorneys do not like pumpkin spice. :-)

Dates:

- National School Lunch week is next week (Oct. 12-16)
- Oct 15: annual report to disclose the number of teachers dismissed/removed in the past couple months to ISBE
- Oct 15: yearly audit to regional superintendent
- Oct. 31: taxes due for first quarter

FFCRA:

- There are different benefit levels that may apply depending on the reason for leave.
- Framework for calculating benefits:
 - For example, a custodian on hourly pay must take leave. This is more straightforward because we know hourly rate and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the rate.
 - However, a 9-10 month employee who is paid on 12-month pay is more complex. This gets tricky when the pay schedule doesn't match the work schedule.
 - The DOL has some regulations on this.
 - Additionally, there could be some implications with collective bargaining agreements and sick leave issues.
 - Board Policy might also provide some guidance. While most policy won't drill down to this level, there is a lot of local control in defining some of this.
- What to do:
 - Get a handle on the regulations and contact legal counsel if you don't
 - Keep the union in the loop
 - When the math is tricky-call legal to get a second set of eyes
 - A lot of it is payroll stuff districts have never had to look at before
- We will develop some materials that will highlight the math and will include this in the client portal.

ISBE Updates:

- Interim COVID-19 Guidance on Music Classes from the Illinois Department of Public Health
 - Students and staff must wear masks. When a student plays a wind instrument, they can put a slit in the mask to be able to play the instrument.
 - Social Distancing: in general this is 6 ft, but larger wind instrument should be 9 feet.

- Individuals should wash and sanitize hands before and after class.
- Students should not share instruments unless necessary. This refers to instruments like drums. Instruments that are played by mouth should not be shared.
- Instruments should be cleaned by manufacturing standards
- Use small pods of students in a cohort
- Outdoor rehearsals are recommended
- Requirements on exchanging the air in the room
- Emergency rules on volunteers in the classroom
 - ISBE adopted an emergency rule to state that paraprofessionals can supervise students when students are engaging in in-person learning and the teacher is remote. This was already authorized in the School Code, but is clarified in the emergency rule.
 - What is not clarified is whether the paraprofessional can provide instructional assistance. We think they still can. They need to be under the constant supervision of the teacher and while the teacher is teaching remotely, he/she is supervising. It is about proximity to the students and what the teacher can see in the camera.
- KIDS Assessment:
 - Districts are still required to complete the KIDS assessment for Kindergarten students. Normally this needs to be completed and reported after 40 days of enrollment. A new emergency rule allows this date to be extended during a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation due to a public health emergency, by a date identified by the State Superintendent of Education.
 - The State Superintendent has extended this deadline for districts that are currently using remote instruction and need to wait until in-person instruction resumes to observe and gather evidence.
 - ISBE reminds districts that all teachers who administer KIDS must attend training on administering the assessment. ISBE's website lists many upcoming virtual trainings.
 - There are still 14 required KIDS measures
 - Each district has an assigned KIDS coach, designated by region. Contact your coach if you have any questions.
- Virtual Coaching and Mentoring:
 - Illinois recognizes new teachers need support now more than ever. Many teachers who are recent graduates did not get to complete a typical student teaching experience and many schools started remotely this year, which also adds a layer of complexity for all teachers, but especially new teachers.
 - With this in mind, ISBE worked with the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers to design a comprehensive program that will pair new teachers with virtual coaches and building-based mentors. This program will include:

- Virtual instructional coach trained to provide support to beginning teachers regarding effective practices for online instruction, social-emotional learning, and trauma-informed practices;
 - Trained and certified building mentor with the sole responsibility to make the teacher feel welcomed, supported and connected in their new school;
 - Access to a virtual coaching platform with comprehensive online library of instructional resources, including effective-practice videos, and software tools that help teachers analyze examples of each other's teaching and provide feedback and support to one another; and
 - Support and feedback through one-on-one and small group virtual coaching sessions organized around Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching Clusters.
- This support is being funded by a 6.5 million CARES grant.
 - Beginning this fall, districts in collaboration with their local unions are invited to join the Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentoring program on a rolling basis.
 - Be on the lookout for more information about this opportunity for your new teachers.

COVID-19 and Exclusions:

- Propublica Joint Tribune article: extrapolating some of the COVID data. 44 schools have had outbreaks (2 more more positive cases in the school that have a epidemiological link).
 - The article expresses concern IDPH is not reporting K-12 positive cases. IDPH says they have some small districts in the state and by reporting this information they could disclose personally identifiable medical information.
 - Approximately 12,000 confirmed cases in students ages 5-17 between March and the start of the school year. From August 15-yesterday, 8,658 students tested positive. On average, since the start of the year, there have been 180 new infections each school day. From March-May, there were approximately 72 positive cases.
 - The article highlights some of the ways schools are reporting. Not required to do a dashboard, but the article says this is useful statewide.
- Exclusions:
 - If an individual is symptomatic with an alternative diagnosis, what do they need to be present at school? The IDPH chart has not been updated since Sept. 10. It says, with an alternative diagnosis without a negative test, the student can be required to have a healthcare providers' note with alternative diagnosis. You may already have a note that will suffice, such as documentation of asthma or allergies.
 - What if you don't believe or trust the alternative diagnosis? If the student is exhibiting more than one symptom on the COVID list, you can have a more

detailed conversation with the family about an exclusion period and healthcare diagnosis.

- How long once you've been positive are you presumed to be negative? Three months from the date of diagnosis. If an individual starts to show symptoms again after this period, you would follow the exclusion chart.
- For districts allowing in-person, hybrid, or remote, can the district say to the parent they must make a decision and stick to it until a certain date (i.e., end of quarter, semester, etc.). Yes, this is local control. Movement to in-person is generally more significant because it will disrupt social distancing so the answer is generally no. You can always make exceptions. However, if a family wants to move fully to remote, this is likely less disruptive, and if they got ill they would be removed to remote so most districts are finding this easier to accommodate.
- There has been some talk about additional symptoms being added to the CDC list. We will continue to monitor this.

Polling Place Guidance:

- Published by IDPH at the end of August. The guidance focusing on these three considerations:
 - Social distancing
 - Mask wearing-masks will be provided if individuals forget
 - Sanitation
- The training for election judges provides guidance on dealing with non-compliant voters.

Darcy discussed and opened the call with. . .

- Deep breaths.

Mohammed discussed important dates. . .

- Next week is National School Lunch week.
- October 15 is the due date for several reports to ISBE or your regional superintendent.

Rob discussed the FFCRA and rate of pay:

- Different benefit levels may apply depending on the reason for leave.
- Guidance on a basic framework for calculating pay.
- A more detailed example will be available in our client portal.

Kevin discussed music guidance and use of volunteers in classrooms. . .

- IDPH released interim guidance on music classes including wearing masks, social distancing, limiting shared instruments, outdoor rehearsals, and cleaning and disinfecting practices.
- ISBE emergency rule clarifies existing School Code indicating paraprofessionals may supervise students who are learning in-person while the teacher is remote.

Cassie discussed updates on KIDS assessment and virtual coaching and mentoring. . .

- ISBE emergency rule extends KIDS assessment deadlines to allow districts that need to wait to resume in-person instruction more time to assess Kindergarten students.
- ISBE, IED, and IFT have developed a virtual coaching and mentoring program to support new teachers.

Darcy discussed COVID, exclusion requirements and polling place updates. . .

- A recent ProPublica article highlights positive cases in K-12 students and the need for IDPH to make this information more readily available.
- An overview of our most frequently asked exclusion questions.
- A review of IDPH polling place guidance.