



NEWS YOU CAN USE

USE THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!

Unadilla Valley Superintendent Bob Mackey interrupted my video chat with Southern Tier superintendents to mention that in our careers, none of us has ever had the chance we are being given by this crisis. Our students aren't focused on state and federal tests. Instruction doesn't need to be geared toward their success on a certain test at a certain time. Teachers may well not need to be evaluated based in part on those test results. Neither the federal nor state education bureaucracies has the time or the staff to tell you you shouldn't be teaching the way you want to teach right now. We've been freed to teach what we want, how we want. We may never see it again. On behalf of our kids, this may be ultimate time to ask forgiveness rather than permission. Here is a message from Bob on the possibilities of this unprecedented opportunity to perhaps forever improve how we deliver public education. Read it here: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/even-blind-squirrel-robert-mackey/>



Managing Stress With a Wellness Mindset Wednesday, April 29 from 11 - 11:30 am

Most families experience stress as we try to juggle daily responsibilities, social activities and work. Some stress can even be healthy. How can we better manage stress? With a "Wellness Mindset"! And, how do we develop a "Wellness Mindset"? By developing and practicing five core competencies: self-compassion and positive inner dialogue, realistic expectations and healthy boundaries, and choosing to support self-care. Join our webinar to learn more. Funding is provided by Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.



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ACTIONABLE IDEAS FOR EDUCATION NOW

[Family Coping During the Coronavirus](#)

Some small adjustments can take the pressure off families who remain sheltered at home — and let them enjoy the added time together.

[School Leadership During Crisis](#)

Deborah Jewell-Sherman talks through what may be on the minds of school leaders in these difficult times, and gives advice on how they can stay grounded and plan for the future.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAKES OVER \$13 BILLION IN EMERGENCY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT CONTINUED EDUCATION FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Flexible CARES Act funds empower state and local education leaders to think creatively to address student, educator needs during national emergency

Yesterday afternoon the U.S. Secretary of Education announced that more than \$13.2 billion in emergency relief funds are now available to state and local education agencies to support continued learning for K-12 students whose educations have been disrupted by the coronavirus. This funding is allocated by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. Education leaders will have the flexibility to use funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) for immediate needs, such as tools and resources for distance education, ensuring student health and safety, and developing and implementing plans for the next school year.

“This national emergency continues to shine a light on the need for all schools to be more agile,” said Secretary DeVos. “Now is the time to truly rethink education and to get creative about how we meet each student’s unique needs. The funding made available today has very few bureaucratic strings attached and empowers local education leaders to do just that. I encourage them to focus on investing in the technology, distance learning resources, training and long-term planning that will help education continue for both teachers and students, no matter where learning takes place.”

Local leaders are empowered with the flexibility to determine how to use their ESSER funds, as long as they are used in ways that comply with applicable federal education laws. The ESSER Fund has important safeguards in place to ensure that this funding goes to help students continue learning. State education agencies (SEAs) must allocate 90% of their ESSER funds to local education agencies (LEAs), including public charter schools, in proportion to the amount of FY

2019 funds the LEA received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Only 10% of the SEA's award may be retained for the state agency to use to address needs related to responding to coronavirus. To see state allocations for the ESSER Fund, click [here](#).

The Department has implemented a streamlined process for states to apply for and receive this critical funding by cutting red tape and removing unnecessary delays. SEAs have until July 1, 2020, to apply for ESSER funds by submitting a simple signed Certification and Agreement form to ESSERF@ed.gov. The Department intends to process each submitted form within three business days of receipt. For more information, click [here](#).

The funding allocations announced today are part of the nearly \$31 billion Congress allocated to the Department to distribute to students, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions. Yesterday's action follows the Department's earlier announcement of a turnkey waiver process allowing states to cancel federally mandated standardized testing in response to widespread school closures in the wake of the declaration of a national emergency. The Department also developed a [streamlined process](#) for providing states with funding flexibilities so that they can repurpose existing K-12 education funds for technology infrastructure and teacher training on remote learning and to move resources to areas of highest need. The Department also moved to provide guidance on ensuring students with disabilities have access to distance learning opportunities and to provide an extension for states that need additional time to develop career and technical education plans under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

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OR TRAIN YOUR STAFF TO WORK REMOTELY**

Since 2014, [Global Teletherapy](#) has helped K-12 schools around the country with online special education therapy services. Their experienced team can either train your current therapists or counselors in remote services or staff your special education department with highly qualified professionals with value-added customer service.



Communicating new platforms with parents may be challenging and so Global Teletherapy has sent over this [Parents Guide](#) on how to deal with the transition.

Click here to see what these other [Rural Schools](#) have to say about working together with Global Teletherapy.