



Inyo County Office of Education
Barry D. Simpson, Superintendent

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education

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Message from Inyo County Superintendent

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is safe and well. I'd like to start by saying thank you to everyone in our educational community for working so hard to continue to provide learning opportunities to our students. I appreciate everything that you are doing.

Like you, I have been spending most of my time at home. Spending some time each week in the office, but also doing quite a bit of work virtually. And like you, I am getting tired of it. I'd like to get back to some normalcy. As our community begins to re-open, our school community is still left with many questions. I know many of you are asking:

When will we get back to school?

What will school look like when we return?

How bad is the state budget?

While there is much that is still unclear, I will do my best to provide a few answers to these questions.

When will we get back to school?

I do believe the school year will begin in the Fall on our normally adopted schedule. However, will we have a 'normal' start to the school year? Unfortunately, I do not believe so. At this time, our school districts do not have clear guidance or criteria for having students and teachers on site and in the classrooms. Social distancing, masks, cleaning and sanitizing, transportation are just a few of the factors we must plan for as we begin to have our students and teachers back on campus. What I do know is that each of our districts is committed to a safe return to school for all students and staff. We all want our students back on campus.

What will school look like when we return?

This is a tougher question to answer, but I will give you some examples of what school may look like when we return. I think it is very important to point out, each district in our county may look different. What can occur in Round Valley or Death Valley may not be possible in Lone Pine or Bishop. In addition, what occurs at Bishop Elementary may not be able to occur at Bishop Union High School. Here are some possible scenarios under discussion statewide:

1. A limit of the number of students on campus to 50% of normal. Meaning we would have alternate schedules. One group of students Monday and Wednesday, the other Tuesday and Thursday. Friday may be used for planning.
2. Districts with less than 100 students may open normally with the understanding recess and lunch periods will be separated into area/zones in compliance with social distancing requirements.
3. Districts may opt for an AM/PM minimum day schedule through a waiver with CDE of the instructional minutes requirement. One group of students attends in the morning and the second group attends in the afternoon.
4. A combination using a blended learning model - alternating students between on-campus and distance learning.
5. Continued distance-learning until it is safe to return on a normal schedule.

These are just examples of what school could look like next year. As I mentioned, there are a number of factors and logistics that need to be planned. It is crucial we receive more guidance from the California Department of Education.

What will the budget look like?

Following the Governor's release of the May Revision, we now know that reductions in school funding are a reality as state revenues have declined due to the economic impact of the pandemic; the impact is likely to be long term as it will take time for the economy to recover. Sadly, when we experience cuts to educational programs, we normally see cuts to staff. Layoffs will likely be a reality. The ICOE will continue to track school funding issues, advocate for, and keep district superintendents and business officials informed of emerging legislative actions. Again, much is still being debated in Sacramento, but we should all prepare for some difficult budget years ahead.

I think you know these are not the answers that I want to give, but unfortunately this is the reality of our situation right now. We will get through this storm as we always have and brighter days will return. Thank you for all you do for our students and have a wonderful summer!

Professional Learning Needs for 2020-2021

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below to help us plan future learning opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/Ek7TN91adfwSJSAN7>

Do you have a teaching strategy or an effective tech tool you'd like to share? Maybe you hope to expand your learning. As we plan for the coming school year with the possibility of at least some remote learning, please reflect back on working through emergency distance learning and fill out this survey to help inform what Ed Services can do to support you in the coming school year. Thank you!

Summer Professional Learning Opportunities

By Ilissa Twomey

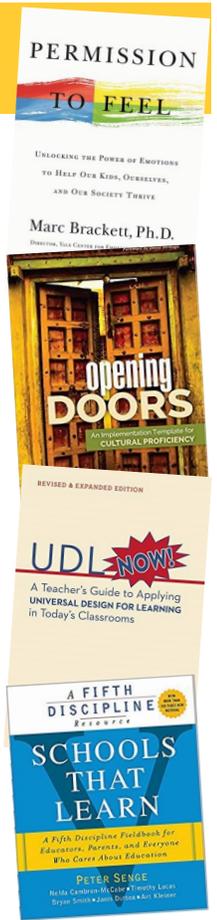
One of the benefits of the teaching profession is that we are surrounded by colleagues and friends who are lifelong learners. Not only do we learn from our students and fellow teachers, but we can also engage in learning activities in new settings. During the transition to emergency distance learning, we learned more about our students and their lives and we learned new tools for communicating and engaging students. While some of the more traditional settings for learning, such as in-person conferences, may be cancelled this summer, the learning is not! Many of us are looking forward to losing ourselves in a good book this summer, but when you are ready for a good professional read, try one of these titles:

- **Permission to Feel: Unlocking the Power of Emotions to Help Our Kids, Ourselves and Our Society Thrive** by Marc Beckett
- **Opening Doors: An Implementation Template for Cultural Proficiency** by Trudy Arriaga and Randall Lindsey
- **UDL Now!: A Teacher's Guide to Applying Universal Design for Learning in Today's Classroom** by Katie Novak and David Rose
- **Schools that Learn** by Peter Senge et al.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic many organizations have taken the learning online and made it accessible for free. Consider participating in a free summer course or online conference:

- [21st Century Teaching and Learning](#) - includes some neuroscience and preparing students for a data filled world. This asynchronous course starts in late July and will be taught by Jo Boaler and the youcubed team.
- [Student Wellness Conference](#) - July 14-16 (units available for purchase). Get inspired by keynote speaker Pedro Noguera and participate in breakouts to promote students' health and well-being in school, in the home and in the community.
- Need to brush on all things Google including how to leverage Google tools in Distance Learning? Check out the technology training for educators at <https://edu.google.com/teacher-center/>.

Looking for something in particular? Contact Ilissa at itwomey@inyocoe.org and we can try and track something down for you. Also, the professional learning calendar on our [website](#) will be updated regularly.



Choice Boards for Summer Learning

The Ed Services team created a variety of choice cards that can be distributed to students to encourage fun summer work activities. Click the following links for a PDF:

- [Nature Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Art Choice Card](#)
- [PE Choice Card](#)
- [Math Choice Card](#)
- [Reading and Writing Choice Card](#)

All choice cards can also be viewed by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/3gzVO6r>



Virtual Summer Learning Resources for Students

With limited summer activities recommended by state and local guidelines, we have created a list of resources to share with students and families to keep kids engaged and learning throughout the summer.

- [Summer Camp Hub](#) lists the best FREE online virtual Summer Camps for 2020. This gives all students the opportunity to experience camp related activities at their own pace, digging deep into STEAM topics, literacy, comprehension, and even some career exploration!
- [Summer Slugger](#) is a fun, interactive, online course that uses the game of baseball to help kids ages 8-11 maintain their math and literacy skills during the summer months.
- [Huddle at Home](#) is a compilation of free digital education resources from the Houston Texans for parents, kids, and teachers to help kids stay active and keep their skills sharp. Enjoy storytime, math, stats challenge, cooking, and more!
- [The City of Bishop website](#) also has many links to a variety of activities that can help keep everyone busy over the summer.

If you are looking for something in particular or have any questions, please email edservices@inyocoe.org