

Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/25/2020 04:47 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Karl Lambert	Please do not pass voting by mail
03/25/2020 05:08 PM	Education Working Group	Dr Magaretha Herman	I'm very concerned that some of our counties have not yet begun to feed children who relied on school breakfast and lunch programs, and other counties are relying on local volunteer efforts to feed some, but not all of those who qualify. A state-wide effort is required ASAP--if one is underway, we aren't aware of it. I live in an urban county--we're managing with financial help, but some counties have neither the money nor the manpower. Currituck County is in great need, for example. Many counties, including mine, are also shutting down Meals on Wheels programs because many of their volunteer drivers are elderly and are now keeping themselves isolated. Elderly shut-ins will starve.
03/25/2020 05:36 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Nancy Lewis	As a small business owner of a childcare center for the past 16 years, since the onset of the COVID-19 virus my business has seen a drastic reduction in enrollment. Once the MCS system closed, parents dropped out immediately. Then quickly restaurants, bars, etc. began to close. More families left. Many parents began to request refunds on tuition that was already allocated to payroll, rent etc.!! Now my 'rainy day fund" was depleted. Daycares do NOT operate on large margins. I have not found anyone with answers or even direct help as to how we can keep our doors open with such reduced income. State or Federal funds are not yet available. No one knows when they will be and how you will access these allusive funds. Do not even get me started on SBA Loans! They are supposed to be available NOW! As far as I am concerned I would like to see where all this money goes. I applied and got a call from a lender that was not part of the COVID-19 program. What is that all about? What a waste of my time. Then I heard if you apply for an SBA loan it adversely affects your CREDIT SCORE. So now in the future it gets harder to get a loan, mortgage, purchase a car etc. CRAZY! How do we pay immediate bills such as rent, water, electric, insurance, PAYROLL etc.! Many daycares have already closed. Will they ever re-open? This is just my immediate need. What about other small business in Moore County? Will there be a County that visitors and new families will want to come to? I hope and pray that the answer is "Yes". Right now their is NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THIS VERY DARK TUNNEL! Please Help us!!!
03/25/2020 05:55 PM	Education Working Group	2020/2021 School Year Laura Stanley	I would like to know how grade promotion, retention, will be decided, and what will be done regarding Grade level standards for next year as it pertains to Advance Classes, Standard Classes, and children that have IEP's, 504'S or receive EC class benfits, and How the High School College Credit Courses will be handled.

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03/26/2020 07:36 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Janet Farmer	<p>As we look forward to the end of the school year and how to handle continuity of instruction, it is very important to understand that each school system needs to be given flexibility, within a framework, on how to handle completion of instruction. For instance, my daughter's high school in Onslow County, has only missed 1 instructional day due to the pandemic closure. As a matter of course, all student already had district issued laptops and they began online, continuing instruction after only one missed day. My understanding is that the online, continuing instruction is taking place for 3rd-12th grades. This is not review material, but a continuation of coursework. They are being graded on this online work.</p> <p>Conversely, I know that some school systems are only able to provide review and reinforcement of material that had already been taught. My personal concern is that the school year may be ended prematurely at a state level, ending the continuing instruction that my daughter is receiving.</p> <p>There are going to be so very many challenges as we move ahead. Solutions will need to be varied depending on the level of instruction student were able to receive this year. For high school students & middle schools with high school credit courses, it may require final exams, to be certain students have learned enough of the material to be successful in the next level of coursework. For elementary & middle schools, it may mean rolling instructions from one grade to the next. I know how many folks feel about testing, but we are probably going to need assessments, not for school grading, but to understand where the students are after this disruption. There are so many unique challenges for high school seniors and those decisions will require input from our UNC College system and the NC Community College system.</p> <p>We have a wealth of resources in our state education system and I encourage legislators to reach out to our teachers, school administrators, PTAs & the NCAE. Perhaps it would be helpful for every school system in the state to create their own working group, made up from representatives from the schools, parents, PTA's, etc., to draft plans for their system to share with this working group.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this opportunity for input.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jan Farmer</p>
03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Education Working Group	Stephanie Day	<p>School districts that are able to offer at-home learning should have the ability to provide pass/fail credit to high school students. While not every district is able to offer online learning during this time, those that are should not be penalized in the name of "fairness" as some states have done. It is unfair for students at-risk of dropping out to be forced to return to school for another 2-3 months to finish work they are doing at home. Pregnant and parenting teens may not be able to return. Seniors and students with plans to move during the summer will not be able to return.</p> <p>NC already has a credit by demonstrated mastery option for high school credits. This should be put into place for all districts without the need to take the state exam for</p>

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03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Education Working Group	Melea Rose-Waters	<p>At Prevent Child Abuse NC, we urge you to consider the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the COVID-19 crisis: children. Parenting itself is a challenge. And, circumstances, undoubtedly, determine just how difficult it can be as a parent – even without the added stress of uncertainty, social isolation, job loss or reduction in wages, or inadequate food and shelter.</p> <p>Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 29 percent over the past 19 years in NC, and it costs the state \$2 billion a year in downstream consequences¹. A November 2019 Vital Signs Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are correlated to Adverse Childhood Experiences like child abuse and neglect, including heart disease, diabetes and depression. It is imperative that our response to the COVID-19 crisis recognizes that the response requires not only addressing immediate needs, but to strategically address the long-term consequences by investing upstream NOW in prevention.</p> <p>Recommendations that prevent child abuse and neglect from the CDC include³: strengthen economic supports for families, enhancing parenting skills to promote healthy child development, and providing quality care and education early in life. The Center for the Study of Social Policy uses the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework⁴ and we encourage you to use this framework in your policy deliberations. These Protective Factors are: Children's Social and Emotional Competence, Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development, Social Connections, Parental Resilience and Concrete Supports in Times of Need. As families are becoming more isolated due to the pandemic, we fear that there will be a spike in unreported and preventable neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. The people who encounter families and report many suspected cases of abuse and neglect – educators and child care providers – no longer have regular face to face contact with families.</p> <p>We request that as you make decisions about how our state will move forward, that you support essential services to families that will aid in reducing the stress and anxiety associated with this pandemic, and ensure the safety and well-being of our state's children.</p> <p>Parenting education classes such as Incredible Years, Triple P, and Circle of Parents must continue as a lifeline for families, and the organizations that are providing these services need resources in order to continue through telehealth, including investments to purchase software platforms that are HIPAA compliant. Some parents who receive these services need access to equipment and broadband services. Home visiting programs offered in NC</p>

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			<p>References:</p> <p>https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf</p> <p>https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/</p> <p>https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf</p> <p>https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/</p> <p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740916303139</p>
03/26/2020 10:17 AM	Education Working Group	Homeschooling testing Kristen Brooking	homeschooling families are still being affected by this virus. Not only are we at risk of getting the virus but our children are too, which could cause further delaying with testing. As homeschooling parents we do have the right to be able to administer the test using CAT, however if we were to purchase these test it is a time frame before we have to turn it in. What if us or children get sick during that time and the test cannot be administered? it is unfair to say that school children in public and private schools do not have to take in the great testing but homeschooling children still have to. This needs to be clarified to include homeschooling children as well. We are all at risk.
03/26/2020 10:46 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Theresa Gore	No mail in ballots Worse idea EVER
03/26/2020 10:47 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Katie LeMaire	I feel there is too big of a risk of tampering and general dishonesty in mailing paper ballots.
03/26/2020 12:34 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Beverly Crumpler	I don't think having home votes should work. That's like showing no ID when voting. It has nothing to do with being a Democrat or Republican, I feel the same either way.
03/26/2020 01:14 PM	Education Working Group		Will students and staff have to make the missed days up? Teachers have been working from home during these days. If they are made up will teachers get paid for those days since we are still meeting our days in our contract.
03/26/2020 01:17 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Barry Collins	<p>Will all staff , including hourly employees, get paid during this time?</p> <p>On behalf of the Onslow County School System, please consider the items listed below as priority area recommendations as we work together in response to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.</p> <p>1) Emergency Leave – Allow all employees in leave earning status to receive an emergency leave day or prorated equivalent for each day scheduled to work according to the LEA's school calendar for days beginning March 16 through the duration of North Carolina's state of emergency. Other employees regularly scheduled for less than 20 hours per week would also receive an equivalent amount of Emergency leave. Emergency leave days will be added to the sick leave balance of these employees. Each LEA can apply these Emergency leave days as appropriate to ensure each employee's pay is made whole. This approach would eliminate unemployment cost and provide LEA flexibility.</p>

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