

Evansville Teachers Association
Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID-19, Teachers, and Schools

Guidance and information is changing rapidly, and ISTA is committed to keeping you informed. Go to <http://www.ista-in.org/covid19> for the latest.

| SCHOOL YEAR | |
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| What is the status of the 2019-2020 school year? | By order of the Governor, schools are to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Each school corporation must complete either 160 total instructional days for 2019-2020 or an additional 20 instructional days between April 2 and June 30. EVSC is completing 160 instructional days, concluding eLearning days for students on May 8. The regular teacher contract continues to May 22. |
| Can I be required to work on a waiver day? | Yes. The waivers are for student instruction and do not waive any days under the regular teacher contract. |
| Can I be required to work on April 24, which is a "makeup day"? | No. April 24 is not a contracted work day nor is it a student instructional day. |
| What is the status of summer school and the start of next school year? | The status of summer school and the start of next school year is unknown at this time and will depend on how the COVID-19 crisis continues to develop and the guidance coming from government and health officials. |
| How will I be able to collect my personal items from my school and how will students be able to return school-owned items to my school? | A decision on how this will be accomplished is not expected until the stay-at-home order is relaxed or lifted. |
| If the start of the 2020-2021 school year is delayed, could my pay and benefits be changed? | It is possible that a delayed start to the 2020-2021 school year could impact teacher pay and benefits. Assuming such a delay would be due to an Executive Order from Governor Holcomb, any impact would be dependent upon that order, and it is also possible that the order could be structured in such a way that there would not be an impact. |
| GRADUATION AND STUDENT GRADES | |
| What are the graduation requirements for seniors? | On April 2, 2020, the Indiana State Board of Education and Indiana Department of Education released a policy document outlining flexibility from Indiana Graduation Requirements. Under this policy document, a current 4 th year senior is <u>eligible</u> to graduate if: |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They were on track to graduate at the end of Fall 2019 semester, AND 2. They were enrolled in the remaining mandatory courses as of the closure of schools. <p>School corporations may choose to require a certain level of participation in ongoing learning activities and credit may still be awarded if a student successfully passes a course in accordance with the school corporation’s grading policy or a grading policy that is modified due to COVID-19. However, students who fail to receive credit for Spring 2020 courses in which they were enrolled as of the closure of schools are still eligible to graduate and receive a diploma.</p> <p>This flexibility does not apply to those outside of the 2020 cohort, such as 3rd year students on track to graduate early or 5th or 6th year students who were pursuing credit recovery options in order to graduate. IDOE has also created an FAQ regarding graduation requirements.</p> |
| <p>If seniors receive a failing grade or an “incomplete” on their transcript for a Spring 2020 course and therefore do not get credit, are they required to go back and finish the class?</p> | <p>No. The students are still eligible to graduate and receive a diploma.</p> |
| <p>Are seniors required to continue working on virtual assignments?</p> | <p>Yes. Seniors are expected to work on eLearning assignments given through May 8.</p> |
| <p>How do we assign grades to students for the Spring 2020 semester?</p> | <p>Guidance on assigning grades to students was released by EVSC via EVSC Connect.</p> |
| <p>How do we assign grades to students in 9-week classes for the final grading period?</p> | <p>The Association has raised this issue with EVSC administration and is awaiting further guidance to be released.</p> |
| TEACHER EVALUATION | |
| <p>How will teacher evaluations be handled for 2019-2020?</p> | <p>On April 9, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued an Executive Order and the Indiana Department of Education released guidance based on that Executive Order related to teacher evaluations for 2019-2020. In brief, school corporations must provide evaluation ratings for all teachers for 2019-2020 using one of the following two options:</p> |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize the corporation’s currently adopted evaluation plan, excluding student data and any information from observations that were not conducted prior to the closure of schools from the evaluation. 2. Utilize 2018-2019 evaluation ratings except for teachers who were on an improvement plan or teachers who do not have a 2018-2019 evaluation rating. These two groups of teachers would receive a new evaluation rating under option 1. <p>On April 14, the IDOE released an FAQ related to teacher evaluation. The Association has discussed this issue with EVSC administration and will continue to work through it. More information will be made available as it becomes known.</p> |
| <p>Under Option 1, how would my evaluation be calculated without student data (state testing or LDA)?</p> | <p>The observation score will make up 100% of each teacher’s evaluation for 2019-2020.</p> |
| TEACHER LICENSING | |
| <p>My teaching license expires before the start of next school year? What do I do?</p> | <p>By Executive Order of Governor Holcomb, expiring licenses have been extended to Sept. 1, 2020 so that teachers can complete the requirements, especially CPR. According to the most recent guidance, licenses that are extended to Sept. 1 per the Governor’s Executive Order will be valid throughout the 2020-2021 school year provided that the school year begins prior to September 1. Additional information is available on the Indiana Department of Education licensing website. It is recommended that members put as much information into the LVIS system as possible now so that their application is ready to be submitted when any final requirements are met.</p> |
| <p>I was not able to finish up my last PGPs before the closure happened. What do I do?</p> | <p>Virtual staff meetings, PLCs, trainings you have completed for virtual education tools, etc. are all eligible for PGPs. In addition, the 15-hour externship requirement is no longer mandatory per SEA 319, which was passed during the 2020 legislative session.</p> |
| <p>Will ETA still offer free CPR certification for members?</p> | <p>While the stay-at-home order is in place, the CPR program is currently suspended, but ETA intends to resume classes when the order is lifted. The Indiana Department of Education also has information regarding CPR certification that can be partially completed online with an in-person portion completed at a later time.</p> |