



Auburn Education Association

Making Public Education in Auburn All It Can Be!

Distance Learning FAQ

1. What can I buy with the technology stipend and how do I get reimbursed?

*Your AEA bargaining team was very proud that we were able to negotiate a one-time \$250 technology stipend. It is important to know that this reimbursement is a **ONE-TIME** reimbursement and it comes out of the \$500 tuition reimbursement. The items that will be approved:*

- a. *headsets*
 - b. *microphone*
 - c. *docking station*
 - d. *webcam*
 - e. *document camera*
 - f. *laptop*
 - g. *monitor stand*
 - h. *halo light*
 - i. *hotspot*
 - j. *internet upgrade*
- *There are no exceptions to the items listed above. The purchase of cameras, other than listed above, are not allowed.*
 - *The purchase of apple products, such as iPads, are not allowed.*
 - *It is a ONE TIME PAYMENT – **hang on to your receipts** and turn in 1 time only. If you submit more than once you will only get paid one time, up to \$250, with qualifying receipts and proof of payment.*
 - *If you purchased equipment in August, you can submit after the Sept. 4 deadline because the expense is considered Covid related.*
 - *If you use the reimbursement to upgrade your internet, you must provide proof of upgrade.*
 - *You will be expected to submit a bill with one level of internet and then another bill clearly showing that you increased speed.*

The reimbursement form will be posted on the ASD and AEA websites on Wednesday, Sept. 9th. I will also be sending it out via email.

2. The MOU states that elementary specialists (PE, music, and librarians) will create their own virtual classroom, consistent with the learning platform determined at the building or grade level, to provide distance learning for students. Does this include Title and EL teachers?

After working with ASD to understand the auto generated Seesaw or Google Classroom, those will be generated in Seesaw and Classroom whenever a class is rostered in Skyward. Since EL, Title and SPED-RR are not rostered at the elementary level, those teachers do not need to add students manually, and it is not possible in Seesaw. The EL, SPED-RR, Title teacher should give students and/families the code for the classroom then students will be connected the first time to get in, then the class will be there for them to click on to join based upon their weekly schedule as determine by EL, Title and SPED teachers.

Vicki Bates shared some general recommendations on how to set up their classrooms on Friday to principals, ITSS and BTC's. Please ask one of those people to send you the email if you have not received it yet.

3. Do I have to be online for 80 min continuously at the secondary level?

We are paid for 7.5 hours of work daily per our contract. It is imperative that members are engaged with students during distance learning. Look in the MOU under sections B and C for specific duties. While you know your students best and will be able to provide asynchronous and synchronous learning to meet their needs, it may be difficult to only provide asynchronous learning on any day. You are expected to log on each class period and take attendance and go over your learning targets and success criteria. However, maybe you have an educational sound reason for starting out in small group asynchronous work then get together with your class 20 min into the period. If so, please make note of that somewhere because administrators can ask you why you are not starting out each period on-line. Pay attention to parts ii in each section, which speaks to students not expected to sit in front of a digital device for the entire academic block. You are the experts and you will determine what your class needs. You are expected to be available for the entire 80 min though and if you are assigning asynchronous work for students, it would be a great idea to pop in and out of small groups or individual work groups you arrange in order to supervise and answer questions, just like you would do in your classroom.

4. How are in-person services to students who are furthest away from educational justice going to be determined and served? Can ASD require teachers and ESAs to provide in-person services?

There are so many details to bargain that your bargaining team decided the best course of action was to create a sub committee made up of AEA President, WEA staff Debbie Bickert, Chris Callaham and Tami Petrina to discuss and bargain Special Education. We had a meeting scheduled on Sept. 3rd to start this work but unfortunately, two of us had emergencies that we had to attend to that day and had to cancel, we agreed to reschedule Sept. 15th. Psychologists, SLPs and OT's have contacted me about specific concerns regarding in-person services and workload. These topics will be discussed in our committee work. We expect ASD to take all safety precautions to keep staff who will be providing in-person services safe. The decision around which students will require in-person services will be determined by the IEP team. Parents are part of the IEP team and should attend meetings. However, since it is a team decision, parents cannot simply request these services and should be determined by the IEP team. ASD does have the right to assign teachers and ESA staff to provide in-person services, however, over 48 people have signed up to volunteered so hopefully that will not happen. If you are at high-risk, I highly suggest you see your doctor and request a note stating what accommodations you will need to provide in-person services.

5. I was assigned to teach 3rd grade and now my principal is assigning me to teach another grade level, is this allowed?

While this is not ideal, because of the creation of PM school and declining in enrollment, ASD is making reassignments in buildings and it is allowed. ASD has the right to involuntarily reassign and involuntary transfer staff at anytime throughout the year. We have specific language about involuntary reassignments and involuntary transfers in our contract (page 26-28).

6. Why is ASD suddenly offering a PM school model?

Dr. Spicciati said in a recent email that parents made it loud and clear that the day model did not work for all families. AEA agrees that a PM model is a great idea and are anxiously awaiting our questions to be answered. I was again disappointed that ASD did not collaborate with AEA on the creation of the PM school model. If we had been, we could have shared the many roadblocks that need to be solved then, instead of 2 days before school starts. Once we get clarification on the many questions and how they will handle contract violations within the current model, I will share with you. But please note, teaching in the PM model is 100% voluntary.

7. The district kept saying that we had to sign in for LID days for funding last week.

What's the deal?

Our negotiated agreement does not have LID days in it. We haven't had LID days since 2011 when the state stopped funding them. They were slowly allocated back over the past few years but again, we did not bargain anything in our last contract regarding LID days. I sent out several communications stating you were not required to sign in unless you wanted clock hours. The reason AEA took a hard stand on this is because it was a violation of the contract. If we allow anyone to arbitrarily make changes to the contract, what would be next? Both sides agreed on the contract and both sides are expected to follow the contract language. ALL hours last week are coming out of our district designated 44.5 hours. We have 28 building hours, 6 principal hours and 10.5 district hours. Depending on how your hours were allocated, determines how many are left in each category (the district 10.5 were used up on Monday all day and Wed morning). Keep a close eye on the hours at your building, ask your admin for clarification as to which hours were used for which day. If you have any questions, please contact me.

These are the top questions that I received. If you have more questions, please email me and I will add to the next FAQ edition. Have a great rest of the weekend and I hope you have a wonderful school year!

In Solidarity,

Elaine

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