

## COVID-19 Update



### Preparing to "Work from Home" March 25th

Beginning Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, VEA members will "work from home." Access to a device with internet and a home or cell phone is needed in order to:

- Check your work email at least three times a day
- Respond to emails within 48 hours
- Remain available for calls from colleagues and/or admin
- Suggest **optional** activities to students and/or parents
- Attend a weekly online staff meeting (beginning after spring break)
- Participate in online professional development

If you haven't already, and you can safely follow social distancing and public health protocols, **you may want to retrieve any necessary materials (laptop, Chromebook, iPad, curricular resources, etc.) from your worksite prior to Wednesday.**

### ♥ Substitute Colleagues ♥

Because COVID closures are an "unplanned break," substitutes may be eligible to file for unemployment benefits. To qualify, they need to have worked 680 hours in four consecutive quarters (can be in multiple districts). Eligibility decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and may also require that a substitute is available and actively seeking work during each week they claim unemployment insurance. Please direct substitute colleagues to [Employment Security](#) to learn more.

### Online PD, thanks WEA!

WEA Staff have started a collection of on-line professional development



opportunities for members to consider taking advantage of during our "work from home" period, beginning March 25<sup>th</sup>. Most of the current [PD Options](#) are related to serving students with disabilities, and many of them present content relevant to general education and Special Education members alike!

Stay tuned for online professional development offerings in the realm of STEM, Certification, and more! **#ProfessionalEducators**  
**#ProudToBeUnion**



### Email Congress!

Emergency legislation to put families

first in the coronavirus response passed the U.S. Senate and was signed into law last week, but more is still needed to support working families in this moment. [Please email your representatives and senators](#) and tell them to support a coronavirus stimulus package that prioritizes students, educators and working families!

### Support the Local Businesses who Supported VEA!

Practice social distancing and other public health measures, but please consider supporting [these local businesses](#) who supported VEA members during the 2018 Strike! If we missed one, share it with your Building Lead to send up the communication chain and we'll do our best to update this list!