

## Fall Update

### VPS Onsite Learning UPDATE

Small groups of high-needs 1st-5th grade students will no longer begin onsite learning Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Planning around this transition will continue after November break and a rescheduled reporting/start date has not yet been set – these services have been put on pause. As a result, **categorically funded certificated staff will no longer be required to report onsite beginning November 24<sup>th</sup>**. Planning for small groups of high-needs 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue and a reporting/start date to follow that of 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students remains unset as well.

Small groups of ECSE students will still begin onsite December 1st. **ECSE teachers will begin reporting onsite November 30<sup>th</sup> for training with admin on safety protocols.**

Small groups of kinder students will continue onsite learning and **kinder teachers, elementary counselors and nurses assigned to elementary schools will continue reporting onsite M/T/Th/F at least until student dismissal.**

Some small groups of Special Education students will continue receiving onsite services and their **respective case managers will also continue onsite according to the schedule they've established for onsite delivery of services.**

### Color your World with Words

As a result of New Business Item 28 from the 2020 WEA Representative Assembly, WEA is publishing a quarterly list of books by authors of color so members can consider providing books that reflect the backgrounds and cultures of our students. [Check out and download the fall book list!](#)

In addition, don't forget about the calendar produced by NEA for Read Across America! It includes elementary, middle and high school titles according to each month's theme. You can [find November's books of the month here](#) to "Celebrate Indigenous Peoples!"

### Sign the Petition to "Bring Support Staff Back!"

As you're already aware, VPS has furloughed or reduced working hours for over 300 of our classified staff (VAESP members). VEA shares the position of VAESP that VPS has the money to make these staff whole again and never should have disrespected their employees and community in this way - we all know that we need our support staff more than ever!

**As a show of solidarity, we encourage you to take a few minutes to please sign this [petition](#) to 'Bring Support Staff back.** It takes just a few more minutes to share the link (<http://chnng.it/chkCVksTNV>) to the petition with other family, friends, and community supporters as well. Thank you!

### VEA Santa Event COVID-19-style

VEA's in-house Santa Claus is devastated to miss the opportunity to greet VPS staff and children in person this year due to COVID-19! Instead, Santa looks forward to encouraging kids both big and small to stay on the Nice List!

VEA will help Santa send out a **personalized postcard** for your child based on each of your [responses to this survey](#), indicating up to four ways each child can stay on the Nice List (please complete one response per child)! In addition, the postcard will come printed with a QR code that links to a **pre-recorded video greeting from Santa** to share with your children using your phone or other device!

Thank you for placing your request(s) for postcards from Santa (by responding to the survey linked above once per child) **no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>** to give Santa ample time to prepare and mail your children's postcards in advance of The Big Day in December!



### Thrive Local Connections for Kaiser Permanente Members

Kaiser Permanente has launched a new resource to connect KP members to community organizations offering help with such core needs as housing, nutritious food, transportation, childcare, and more.

To learn more about these critical resources, [check out this video](#). To learn more about gaining access to them, members can call the new Thrive Local Connections toll-free number: 800-443-6328 where agents are available to help members locate resources. Thrive Local Connections is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in all local time-zones.

Kaiser Permanente will be introducing the call center Thrive Local Connections phone number to members region-by-region over the coming months, in order to gauge call volume and plan accordingly.

What kinds of social health resources will members get assistance with from Thrive Local Connections?



**Housing and shelter:** There is an increased need for services related to emergency housing, housing mediation and eviction-prevention services, housing applications and recertification, and rent and mortgage payment assistance.



**Childcare:** While schools are closed in districts across the country, families need help with childcare during this time.



**Financial assistance:** With the sudden economic downturn, many people have urgent financial needs due to changes in employment or financial status. Services in the resource directories include help with emergency, one-time financial assistance, social security and disability benefits, cash assistance, unemployment assistance, and veterans' pension and disability benefits.



**Employment:** Unemployment claims are at record highs. You can direct members to resources to support with job-search, placement services and job training.



**Food:** Hunger and food-insecurity are increasing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. You can use the resource directory to direct members to services addressing urgent food needs, such as emergency food, prepared meals, SNAP, WIC, and other nutrition and grocery benefits.