Good evening everyone,

Happy Cinco De Mayo!!! Hope you are all able to enjoy the sunshine at some point today.

I wanted to reiterate the DO’s and DON’Ts related to our four priorities.

1. Focus on the safety, health, and welfare of students and staff members in your community.

DO:

* Follow CDC and State Guidance Documents even during the summer as you are planning for ESY and reopening.
* Plan for possible challenges with health and welfare in the long term.
* Focus on mental health for your staff and for students - what are you doing to keep balance?

DO NOT:

* Bring populations of vulnerable children together because it’s easier or because it’s tradition.

1. Provide FAPE - Deliver services to as many students as you reasonably can in the best way you know how.

DO:

* Continue to provide as many services as possible through remote learning as you can.
* Provide Extended School Year services as you typically would have (just provide them virtually)
* Make services and supports individualized for students with disabilities

DO NOT:

* Ask parents to sign “FAPE waivers.”
* Decide you’ll just handle things through “comp. ed” when schools reopen.
* Stop reaching out to families, even if they have disengaged with you.
* Stop reaching out to general ed. folks. Make sure you keep in touch with what is happening with general education students.

1. Document your efforts; make sure documentation is focused, consistent, detailed and demonstrates a good faith effort to provide good services.

DO:

* Assist your teams with staying organized with all of the “paper” and virtual records.
* Organize yourself and your team over the summer for what the Fall will look like (i.e., evaluations, meetings, etc.)

DO NOT:

* Force yourself to rely on memory during this emotional and challenging time.
* Count on others to be organized or to have a good plan of organization.
* Plan to organize yourself “later” when things are back to “normal.”

1. Compliance during the pandemic - IDEA wasn’t built for this.

DO:

* Comply with meeting notification requirements in the best way you know how.
* Attempt to meet timelines as best as possible.  This will be especially helpful when school based instruction resumes as you will be able to delay some meetings.
* Follow through with state guidance documents.

                            DO NOT:

* Count on any flexibilities coming from Congress

On Thursday, we will speak more about our upcoming data meeting.

Be well!

Erin