



June 2020 - Federal Employment Service Connects Veterans to Veterans Affairs Partners

Readout of the U.S. Department of Education's Remote Learning Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos hosted the second in a series of [forums](#) with K–12 education leaders the week of June 10 to discuss best practices for remote learning, including lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 2,000 education leaders from across the country listened in as educators from Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina discussed how they established innovative virtual learning capabilities to serve students and teachers now and in the future.

COVID-19 Resources

The White House, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), and other federal agencies are continually releasing and updating information to support schools, educators, families, and students regarding COVID-19. In addition to the links below, please visit <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus> for the latest education-related information, and email questions for the Department to COVID-19@ed.gov.



- [Coronavirus.gov](#), [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](#), and [USA.gov/Coronavirus](#)
- [President's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#)

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Guidelines for Opening America Up Again](#) (covering K-12 schools, child care programs, and day camps)
- [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\)-issued Coronavirus Information for Students, Borrowers, and Parents](#) (updated May 22, 2020)
- [Department of Agriculture Extends Flexibilities, Paves Way for Meals for Kids to Continue through Summer](#)
- [Call to Action by the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board](#)
- CDC [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education](#) and [Stakeholder Call for Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- To help prevent prescription drug misuse: CDC's [Put Your Prescription Medicines Up and Away](#), the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) [Safe Opioid Disposal Toolkit](#), and the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) [Secure Your Meds](#)



Secretary DeVos Approves Perkins Career and Technical Education State Plans

Secretary DeVos has announced the approval of the first two groups of state career and technical education (CTE) plans by the Department. On May 22, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire [were the first to have their CTE plans approved](#) under the new, bipartisan *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins V), which was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on July 31, 2018. Subsequently, Secretary DeVos [announced](#) the approval of plans by Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming and then the [plans](#) of Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Perkins V encourages states to expand opportunities for every student to access education opportunities that will put them on the path to success. Each state crafted a plan to fulfill its promise of offering a robust CTE option for students following consultation with its key Constituents representing education and workforce, business and industry, and parents and community partners.

“Our Perkins plan raises the bar for CTE in Illinois,” said Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. “We now have higher standards for program quality, equity, and access, as well as tools and strategies to help programs meet these higher standards. Our plan included funding to incentivize deeper connections between students and employers. Strong career and technical education will help Illinois rebuild our economy after COVID-19 and equip our students with the skills and experiences they need to succeed in a 21st century workforce.”

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Next Step Toward Better Connecting Transitioning Service Members Skills with Employers' Needs



An announcement was made by The U.S. Department of Labor that three finalists have been chosen to build an application to better match [transitioning service members'](#) skills with employer needs. The field testing will begin on June 22, 2020. The three finalists, Eightfold, LinkedIn, and Square Peg Hires, will present their software solutions to transitioning service members from various Army installations through virtual Transition Assistance Program courses.



Strengthen Your Workforce: Hire Veterans

Did you know one of the most capable and dedicated talent pools is America's military veterans? The volunteer force is filled with high-quality recruits—fewer than 30% of young Americans meet the standards for entry into military service. Take notice why veterans make [excellent employees in the civilian workforce](#).

Supporting Families in Helping Young Children During Stressful Situations



The ED-funded [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovation's](#) (NCPMI's) primary goal is to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of children from birth through age 5. NCPMI has many [resources](#) for families on helping young children cope with the challenges that might occur during stressful emergency or disaster situations. Check out its new infographics and tip-sheets for families, including "[Helping Your Child During the Pandemic](#)," "[Tips for Helping Your Child During the Pandemic](#)," and "[Tips for Supporting Yourself During the Pandemic](#)." You can also find these resources in Spanish in NCPMI's [resource library](#).

Creating Strong Families Through Online Learning

As learning environments transitioned from the classroom to virtual and in-home platforms, the [West Virginia Family Engagement Center](#) (WVFEC) began hosting a series of family focused webinars to explore education opportunities for students and families at home during school closures. The topics of the [Strong Families Learning Series](#) include social-emotional learning, physical and collaborative activities, virtual learning, practicing mindfulness, creating a learning space, maintaining calm, and making memories. In addition, WVFEC expanded its COVID-19 resources to teachers, administrators, and school staff by creating Strong Schools Online Learning Series (professional development available on request). Topics of this professional development include Teaching in a Time of Crisis: Caring for Yourself and Others and Teaching in a Time of Crisis: Communicating Care. WVFEC also offers weekly live webinars every Thursday at noon and 4:30 p.m. ET as part of the "Quick Bites" program. Past webinars are archived online. Additional information on these resources may be found on the WVFEC [COVID-19 Resource website](#).



Veterans Affairs Under Secretary Paul Lawrence Live Tele-Townhalls on COVID-19

Join Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for benefits Dr. Paul R. Lawrence for a series of [tele-town halls for veterans](#) on COVID-19 response and Veterans Benefits Administration updates. Past sessions are archived on the website.

School Transitions Guide for Military Families

Just think about the anxiety military families with school age children can face when moving to a new post due to the uncertainty of the quality of schools in the new location. [A Military Family's Guide to School Transitions](#), compiled by military spouses with decades of experience, can help to mitigate these concerns by helping children transition effectively to a new school.



American Corporate Partners Offers Mentorship Opportunities to Veterans With Fortune 500 Companies

American Corporate Partners is offering mentorships to veterans with [Fortune 500 companies](#). The military makes it a point to ensure there is constant mentorship, but after discharge it stops. American Corporate Partners says it doesn't have to. The company is offering a complete virtual one-on-one mentoring program to assist veterans.





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Support services are provided to veterans through the [Veteran Employment Services Office \(VESO\)](#) (formerly known as VA for Vets). VESO's training provides transitioning services for service members seeking VA employment and helps demystify the federal hiring process. The program teaches veterans how to match their job skills and education with career counseling that best aligns with federal occupations. It also helps speed up the hiring process for vets.



Operation We Are Here

Need help with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). There is a PTSD [resource directory](#) for military veterans, communities, and military supporters.



Winding Down for Better Performance and Sleep

School closures, quarantine, working from home, and social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic have all disrupted lives. Anxiety about the unknown and these interruptions to daily living can [disrupt sleep patterns](#). The [sleepfoundation.org](#) discusses how these changes to normal daily routines can affect people from all ages and walks of life. The [Better Sleep Council](#) celebrated Better Sleep Month in May and outlines the "[ABC's of Getting \[Your\] ZZZs](#)" by age group. Other [resources](#) and [tips](#) are available for optimizing sleep during the COVID-19 pandemic to build [healthy sleep routines](#) that boost immunity, reduce stress, and improve learning.

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