

1-5-18



Dear Site Coordinator (if you are not a SC please forward to your SCs):

Happy New Year! Hope the break was restful and you are recharged for another semester of making a difference in the lives of the students you and your team serve each day!

As you return, please read this and share with your front line staff [it would be great to do this on day one (1) before staff interact with students and you hold your kick off meeting with them].

This is a really good article sent to me by a colleague, and it reminds me of when I first started working on summer programs and assumed [we all know the problem with that word] that staff had experienced summers like I had [WRONG], which totally raised my consciousness as to be sensitive to what others may or may not have experienced.

Don't assume that every student had a fun or warm holiday break

By Kirsten Perry
[Education](#) Dec 29, 2017 02:51 PM EST

One of my middle school students was recently sent to me after displaying erratic behavior in class. His teachers had tried to console him and figure out the cause of his outburst. After speaking with his mom, I discovered that the family had recently lost housing and was unable to secure a bed in a shelter the night before. She told me that she had made up a reason to be sick, so that she and her son could spend the night in a local hospital.

Finding a place to sleep is an everyday battle for this mother, and yet what amazed me the most is that despite the turmoil they endured the night before, she made sure that her son got to school on time the next day. In fact, he never misses a day of school.

For this mother and her child, school means something more than just getting an education. School is a place to have food and shelter from the cold. School is a place of support.

The holiday season is a time of joy and cheer for most of us. It's a time to relax and eat; a time to catch up with family and friends; a time to exchange gifts and share stories of what we did over winter break.

But for many students and their families, the holidays can also be a time of high anxiety and stress. As a school counselor in a predominantly low-income community, I have to consider that many of my students may go without the support and stability that school has come to mean. There are other stressors to consider as well.

The holidays can be a time of grief and sadness—a time when memories of our loved ones who have died come flooding back and our losses become magnified. During these milestones in the grief process, young people who have recently lost a loved one need particular support.

For this mother and her child, school means something more than just getting an education. School is food and shelter from the cold.

It is important to consider that loss can take many forms for students: Divorce, separation, incarceration, military deployment, deportation, moving and much more. Though different from a family member's death, the process of grief is very similar for these other events. Students may struggle to celebrate when their lives have significantly changed, even if it is temporary.

The winter break can also be a time of financial stress for some families who worry about paying the bills and having enough money to buy gifts. For working families, it can be difficult to find childcare and children may end up spending time outside of their homes. It can be a time of family disputes and substance abuse. It can be a time of community violence and theft.

The reality is that some students may not have the warm, inviting experience that so many of us look forward to each year. In fact, many students might return to school after the break having experienced traumas and might struggle to share their stories with their teachers or classmates. Students may struggle to focus academically.

Though we cannot find lasting solutions for every family and every child, we can provide support. We can identify resources. We can let student voices be heard. We can let our children express their sadness, their anger and their frustrations. We can create and locate spaces for them to feel safe. Most of all, we can let our children and families know that we care and we acknowledge what they are going through.

[PBS NewsHour's Teachers' Lounge](#) covers how current issues may affect life for educators and students. To receive brief education offerings, click on the NewsHour's Education Mailer [here](#).



1. LOS ANGELES COUNTY UPDATE

A. NEW AND/OR UPCOMING TRAININGS; REGISTER FOR THESE AT:
<http://aspire.lacoe.edu/event-type-groups/staff-development-training-events>

a. CLEVER CRAZES for your Program and Kids! - February, 23, 2018

Come learn about CLEVERCRAZES.com...everything is FREE! This is an exciting way to engage kids in learning about STEAM: How Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math are integrated into their everyday lives. Kids will be introduced to STEAM careers and be engaged in games and lessons that require knowledge of all disciplines and their interaction. All of this is part of the interconnected web of wellness—healthy planet, healthy relationships, and healthy individuals. CleverCrazes' worlds focus on a theme-based, interdisciplinary approach to standards-based curriculum providing ways to encourage young people to think about real world applications of STEAM. Kids, grades K-8, will be engaged online and with one another while being physically active too. Great opportunities to win money for your program and supplies too! Kids can earn gift cards, shoes, backpacks and more. This workshop will be taking place in a computer lab so you can see, experience, and play within the worlds just as your participants do.

b. Summer 202: Project-Based Learning for Summer Programs - February 28, 2018

This training is designed specifically for seasoned summer program providers to take programs to the next level. The training will focus on project-based learning and make connections to the Quick Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs (QuickCASP).

B. NEW SEMESTER OFTEN BRINGS STAFF CHANGES! NEED STAFF FOR YOUR PROGRAM? CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES

a. Career Connections

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/w27mi1m5fa2iwub/College%20Career%20Connections.xlsx?dl=0> [which can be found on ASPIRE website]

b. LACOE ASPIRE website

Send your job postings in a pdf file to Gevedon.Sue@lacoe.edu, and let her know you would like it posted on our website under the "Employment" tab in "Resources."

c. CA Afterschool Network

Send job posting to: Jeff Davis, jdavis@afterschoolnetwork.org, put "Job Posting" in the SUBJECT line, and attach a copy of what you want posted.

2. LEGISLATION

A. Nothing to report at this time as they have been back home in their districts.

B. We have a new Community of Practice: Advocacy! This is composed of folks at any level who want to get involved in expanded learning advocacy efforts. The first activity they are working on an event for Read Across America Day in conjunction with Dr. Seuss birthday and getting legislators out to sites that day to read to students and see programs in action. Contact our consultant working on this project for more information: Sterling Williams at swilliamns001@gmail.com.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- A. No new opportunities at this time.

4. RESOURCES

- A. Girl Scout Program for your Site!

The Greater LA Girl Scout Council has funds to bring a Girl Scout program to your site! There are no fees involved for the training and/or your young women scholars to participate—and they provide the meeting materials. They will come to you and train your staff and would love to bring program to sites for the 2nd semester! Contact the following person for additional details and to set up your training session: Diana Caballeros at DCaballeros@girlscoutsla.org or via phone at (626) 677-2379.

- B. [Check out the Latest Quality Standards Video from CDE](#)

The California Department of Education – Expanded Learning Division has released the fifth video in a series of videos highlighting the Quality Standards in Action. The purpose of these videos is to serve as a resource to support implementation of the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning in California. This video highlights programs that are implementing the Healthy Choices and Behaviors standard.

Check out the [Healthy Choices and Behaviors Video!](#)

For more information and to see all the videos released, go to www.caexpandedlearning.com.

5. OPPORTUNITIES

- A. **BOOST Art Work: We Need YOUR help!**

Each year our office coordinates a student art gallery at BOOST in partnership with STAR, Inc. to remind us why we do this work. Last year, we had over 600 pieces and this year we are aiming for 750 pieces! See attached info sheets and let us hear from you!

B. Photo of part of the gallery from last year!



MJ

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“We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already. We have the power to imagine better.” J.K. Rowling