



School Counselor on the Go Webinar Series - Education and Advocacy for High School During the Budget Crisis and COVID-19

May 28, 2020

Q: Mr. Compton, we have been told in RUSD we are fine for this year. I have also heard other districts tell their counselors there are no current cuts. However, your graph earlier shows that budget cuts take 1-2 years to take effect. Does that mean that School Counselor's should wait and think we are "safe" however start advocacy now if not currently doing so ? Asking for my School Counselor friends...

A: It is a 2-step process in a sense. The first step is that districts will typically tap into their existing reserves and/or borrow money internally so as to level the playing field (i.e. retirement, employees seeking other opportunities) through attrition. The next phase would be via evaluation and examine the degree of added value to the school/district mission. This will be the result of next steps with the timeline of March 15 of the 2020-21 school year. Once the first step process has taken shape, and initial cuts have been made to classified staff, then certificated employees would be next.

Q: How are seniority lists determined?

A: The district or county office will work with your union to determine the criteria for seniority like hire date or education beyond master's degree, etc. Connect with your union to find out what conversations have already taken place but both the district leadership and your union will negotiate this process.

Q: Can this needs assessment be done before the school year ends?

A: Yes they can. The team will share ideas now on how to get them out and use them to plan for the fall.

Q: Did they text the link to the needs assessment to get students to complete it?

A: During the year we have students complete the needs assessment as part of our initial lesson in the fall. We have them scan QR codes and have paper copies for students who do not have a phone who do not have a phone. During COVID-19 I pushed out the needs assessment through Remind.

Q: To add students to Remind, did you use their personal email or school email?

A: School email was utilized.

Q: How do you push needs assessment out? What is the rate of completion on average?

A: During the year we get a high completion rate by doing a needs assessment as part of our classroom lesson in the fall. During COVID-19 we pushed out the survey through the Remind app.

Q: How many needs assessments roughly are shared in a school year?

A: Be strategic about how you ask- we did ours in our initial lesson in the fall and it got us great participation. Yours may have to be a little bit longer to capture the most data at one time. If you can ask for help for example, having your ELAC Coordinator collect needs assessment for English Language Learners, or Coaches collect data on their kids and tell them "hey if you collect this data I can help your athletes with NCAA, etc. Reach out to us if you need more ideas ynava@riversideunified.org."

Q: Who do I contact at RCOE for more support?

A: Catalina Cifuentes <ccifuentes@rcoe.us>; Gilbert Compton <gcompton@rcoe.us>; Dr. Pedro Caro <pcaro@rcoe.us>

Q: What is the Ed Code for August layoff?

A: CA Education Code 44955.5 is the provision for reduction in force until August.

Q: Can Needs Assessments be shared?

A: As long as students' names and ID's are not shared, Needs Assessments are encouraged to be shared with staff and stakeholders. At Santiago High School, they share the results of their needs assessments with their Counseling Advisory Committee. We share the overall results of the needs assessment but not student specific information other than to their assigned Counselor.

Q: When should a needs assessment be done for seniors?

A: These needs assessments can be done as an exit survey, as part of senior check out, or if you plan ahead you can have them complete it as part of their diploma pick up.

Q: With Remind is there still a charge for a certain amount of students?

A: There is only a charge for over 500 students. One suggestion is to set up “classes” such as 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th and never exceed the 500 students.

Q: What other online platforms or resources do you use to get information or surveys out to students?

A: SMORE is awesome, but the free accounts are limited. CANVA is also one of my favorites! If you go to www.rcec.us and create an account we did three webinars on tech tools for counselors

TIPS AND TRICKS

Share your data with your union representatives. Invite them to your meetings if you share end results at your site or send them a newsletter with all your results

Talk to your IT person to allow access or training for all the ways to utilize the Academic Plan. You can also Google it.

The Academic plan can even roll over into course requests on Aeries- saves so much time during registration. Then you can truly have conversations about their academic plan and not just current year course requests

If you would like to contact Mr. Gil Compton regarding his budget advice, please email him at gcompton@rcoe.us since it was not listed previously.

RCOE provides ASCA Model training, please reach out to Dr. Caro at pcaro@rcoe.us for more information.

We share with students and parents through our student portal, Q communications for students to check their google classroom because we are providing support and we are posting ongoing information.