

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS



Council of the Great City Schools

1331 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Suite 1100N, Washington, D.C. 20004

cgcs.org

FOR RELEASE
March 25, 2020

CONTACT: Tonya Harris
(202) 393-2427 or tharris@cgcs.org

Urban School Districts Share Information and Best Practices For Dealing with the Coronavirus

Superintendents and Senior-Level Administrators Help Each Other

WASHINGTON, March 25 – After closing schools to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), leaders in the nation’s urban school districts are turning to one another to share relevant information and best practices as they work to feed thousands of schoolchildren and provide them with instruction and learning, all in a relatively short amount of time.

The Council of the Great City Schools has organized weekly video conference calls for superintendents from its 76-member school districts to discuss common problems and share strategies they are pursuing at the local level in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

These superintendent conference calls have proven to be so beneficial for participants that the Council was then asked to conduct conference calls between different groups of senior-level administrators in big-city school districts. As a result, the Council has held conference calls with English language learner (ELL) directors, research directors, legislative directors, chief academic officers, special education directors and chief operating officers.

The calls enable administrators to ask questions and get answers from their peers, who are often dealing with similar challenges caused by the coronavirus. For example, a recent conference call with ELL directors discussed the uncertainty around what English language learner supports look like in an online or remote learning environment. Also discussed was the challenge districts face providing information about technology and online courses in different languages as well as the lack of internet access that may exist in some ELL households.

“These conference calls provide a way for senior-level administrators to hear directly from people who are doing the same work in other urban school systems similar to their own,” said Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. “These educators are working hard to curb the impact of school closures on their students and to find solutions that will best serve our urban schoolchildren across the nation during the coronavirus pandemic.”

The Council has also created a section on its website, www.cgcs.org/corona, which includes district instructional resources, materials, action plans, school district closures and other information on what Council member districts are doing in response to COVID-19.

##