

1. Is it possible to have someone from the HSE office join us at the next meeting? The TASC is so important to our students and it's part of our goal as programs to make sure our student reach this goal. AEPP and HSE should be working together on this.

The HSE testing office is a separate office that is part of ACCES-AEPP. They have requested that all questions related to TASC/HSE testing be sent directly to the HSE mailbox HSE@nysed.gov and questions pertaining to the Board of Regents waiver should be sent to HSEtc@nysed.gov

2. For attendance reporting - should ALL remote hours be reported to Accountability website? We understood that all WIOA attendance should be reported to Accountability and EPE hours were to be reported in ASISTS. Have we been reporting incorrectly?

WIOA and ALE remote attendance must be reported to the Accountability site; as programs move back to in person, traditional program as contracted, the in person attendance is to be recorded in ASISTS. All EPE is recorded in ASISTS with the exception of case management that is not synchronous.

3. For new ALE programs who are moving towards in person instruction, will there be assessment training available?

Yes, there will be in person assessment training made available through the RAEN centers, until they are scheduled, new ALE personnel will not administer any tests unless they have attended training previously through the RAEN.

4. We're currently running summer programming remotely. Should these hours be recorded in ASISTS or uploaded to Accountability site?

It is unclear if you have an ALE/WIOA program or an EPE program, please follow the direction in Answer #2.

5. Will there be extra funding for the pilot?

A program desiring to pilot a distance learning model will do so under existing funding; the pilots are not required of any program.

6. Can new programs use assessments from the Jan-March timeframe as pre-tests for FY20/21?

No, if a program is new and was not funded under AEPP in FY2019/2020 then no assessments will be carried over.

7. We will likely need to hire another teacher or two after Aug. 13 and 14. Will there be another option for stop gate training in early September?

Yes, there will be another web training opportunity in late September.

8. Will the application for distance learning pilots be included as part of the new application for WIOA Adult Literacy funds or will it be a separate application?

The pilot is an independent application process; it is not part of the WIOA rfp.

9. We are seeking a best practice to get electronic signatures from students on the ISRF. Can you share what other programs are doing successfully?

Other programs using the fillable pdf ISRF have reported no difficulty with the electronic signature. The form must be downloaded from the website and then completed and saved. If it is filled directly from the site, it does not save the signature. There is a small red flag at the point on the form where a student would sign. That red flag triggers the signature process. Once downloaded, the red flag will appear and the electronic signature will be activated.

10. Will the RAEN be able to provide TABE/Best Plus training in some day, at some point this fall? Also, how will this impact our need for recertification?

Yes, the RAEN centers will be providing assessment training in person in the fall. Program staff will not be required to renew certification until that time.

11. You mentioned that there will be an application for the pilot distance learning in November. Does that mean that the expectation is that by November all other classes will be conducted in-person? This is a real concern for us.

The pilot application process is not linked to the reopening schedule for programs. Each program will gradually reopen and their plan will be reviewed and approved by NYSED.

12. Do the IELCE and IET CTE teachers need to attend the WIOA Distant learning Webinar?

CTE teachers in EPE funded programs have not been providing training in person therefore these classes are not reimbursable under EPE guidelines. When these classes return to in-person instruction, the contact hours will be entered in ASISTS.

13. Is it possible that the same individual student would have in-person attendance in ASISTS and remote attendance in the Accountability website?

Yes, that is possible given certain enrollment circumstances. It is best to send your question directly to your RAEN center or to Rosemary Matt.

14. If the training portion of our IEL/CE program can be conducted remotely, would that be approved by NYSED?

No remote training has been approved by NYSED at this time.

15. What about the 6 hours DL training?

Each RAEN center will be providing the 6 hour, in person Distance Education training for EPE providers as soon as they are permitted.

16. You mentioned that you will only accept in-person testing. Does that mean that any student/teacher that isn't comfortable meeting in person for testing cannot be accepted into the program?

The March 20th memo, while in effect, indicates clearly that assessments are not required; however, all programs are encouraged to move toward in person programming and assessments are the priority.

17. Is there a date or metric (infection rate, etc.) by which programs must return to 100% in person learning?

No, there is not.

18. At least one of our IELCE trainings will be run remotely. Will we be submitting training attendance in FY '21? (I assume this will be answered at meeting with IELCE providers, but would be helpful to know.) Thanks!

More information will be provided during the IEL/CE individual meetings however, no IEL/CE training is approved for remote delivery.

19. Do you have any information about Crossroads Cafe program training?

Each RAEN center will be providing a 6 hour in person Crossroad's Café training in the fall.

20. When will EPE award letter for FY21 be released?

EPE allocation letters will be issued in early September.

21. We were directed to not enter ASISTS data - only was for EPE. Are we supposed to enter ASISTS?

As programs move back to in-person instruction, the attendance from the in-person instruction will be recorded in ASISTS while the remote instruction will continue to be recorded on the Accountability site.

22. Does this include EPE hours?

EPE contact hours are always entered into ASISTS.

23. Isn't it only WIOA remote contact hours that are uploaded to the accountability site not ALL remote hours?

Yes, only WIOA and ALE remote contact hours are uploaded to the accountability site. EPE programs must follow the direction given in the Stop Gate training.

24. Do we enter the class codes and enrollment in ASISTS for FY2021 (without any contact hours) even if we are conducting classes remotely?

Yes, the expectation is that all programs will gradually move back to in person instruction.

25. If we have students enrolled in a blended model, do we have to include all EPE hours in ASISTS, or should they be divided by remote to accountability site and face to face in ASISTS

All EPE providers must follow the EPE guidelines and the March 20th memo for generating contact hours that are reimbursable. There is no blended model under EPE.

26. The EPE Application format was very difficult to use. Please consider developing a more user friendly format for future applications.

The EPE application is a fillable form to allow for ease in completing the application. Perhaps you did not utilize the fillable form.

27. For EPE - remote tutoring was being recorded in ASISTS until 6/30/2020. Is it now just recorded on the attendance sheets uploaded to the accountability site and not generating EPE any more?

All EPE providers must follow the EPE guidelines and the March 20th memo for generating contact hours that are reimbursable. All EPE related contact hours as determined by the EPE guidelines are to be entered in ASISTS.

28. Can we assume that if we asked for a waiver on the 6 hours a week mandate, we have permission to run classes that are only offered 2 hours or 4 hours a week are ok?

No, waivers must have NYSED approval. A two hour class will not be approved, in some circumstances a four hour class may be approved.

29. Will NYSED work with programs to set new, lower enrollment expectations for programs moving from remote to fact-to-face programming?

Performance and enrollment expectations will be proportionate. Individual questions will be addressed in the coming weeks.

30. Does that mean there is not distance learning (for those students that do not feel comfortable returning to in person learning) prior to November?

Programs are encouraged to gradually, carefully, and safely return to in person programming; while that process moves forward, remote learning can continue to follow the March 20th guidelines.

31. If my program receives both EPE and WIOA funding, do I have to submit a reopening plan?

Yes, all programs will be asked to submit a Reopening Plan. In light of the current Data Deadline the end of this week (August 17, 2020), NYSED will issue a template early next week that will be sent by the RAENs for all funded programs to complete and return electronically to an email address created for this purpose. Directions for submission will accompany the template.

32. What does new staff need now - EPE Dist Ed Webinar or re-scheduled formal, full tilt Distance Learning PD? through RAEN

Program staff are not permitted to provide any remote programming without attending a web based Stop Gate Training provided by NYSED.

33. EPE funded programs continue to enter synchronous Tutoring hours in ASISTS?

Yes, that is correct.

34. Can you add more clarity about the Fiscal Bulletin? What is meant by placing on hold and submitting essential expenses for approval? Does this apply to EPE and WIOA?

The Bulletin is direct link from the PowerPoint used for today's meeting. Please access it from the PowerPoint.

35. Will there be some additional information coming about what will be counted as proportionate performance measures? I'm thinking about how we will know what we should expect in terms of WIOA outcomes.

While NYSED will provide proportionate performance measures as programs begin to reopen and provide in person programming, it should be noted that all programs funded under WIOA and EPE will continue to follow the National Reporting System guidelines and all ALE funded programs will continue to follow New York's Reporting System guidelines however, the benchmarks for each funding category will be proportionately altered to adjust to the reopening process.

36. Should we schedule the mandatory 14 hours of teacher PD or is it on hold for now?

Programs do not schedule the mandatory 14 hours of professional development. The REAN center in each region will schedule and announce trainings as they come available. The 14 hours was lifted in FY2019/2020 and will be proportionate in FY2020/2021.

37. Do you have an idea when we will no longer be able to count case management and tutor hours for DL?

When programs move back to in person programming, all case management and tutoring will also return to in person delivery.

38. You mentioned that the distance learning planning tool is a living document and I am happy too, but what about EPE?

EPE programs may submit an amendment request once the initial EPE allocation letters are issued.

39. I want to clarify: For EPE programs, the only ESL distance learning option is Crossroads Cafe and the Crossroads Cafe tutoring, is this correct? Also, before COVID the students could only be involved in one or the other (Distance or in-person). Is this still the case? If our school is operating on a hybrid schedule where the students only come 2 days a week, can they be dual enrolled in in-person and distance learning?

No, once a program provides in person instruction, a student will be enrolled in traditional programming or distance education but not both concurrently. If students attend class in person only part time, teachers have always provided additional materials for use at home. The time spend on these materials however has never been nor will they be EPE reimbursable.