

CHARTER CHATTER

A COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER BETWEEN ACES AND PCSNM FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

March 2020

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hi Everyone,
We are all feeling the effects of COVID-19, and I've been in conversations with multiple school leaders. I'm inspired by the work of our charter school community. You all have been faced with significant logistical hurdles and are clearing them for students. Thank you. In that same spirit, I'm writing to remind you that ACES and PCSNM is here to help. Whether it's assistance with school cleaning (see this newsletter), providing food or providing for a need we haven't anticipated, we're here to problem solve with you, and have some resources and connections to bring value to the conversation. Consider us on standby to assist you in this unprecedented time.

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SPOTLIGHT ON VENDORS

HERRERA COACHES

ACES recently published an RFP for Student Transportation Services that included both To-From Services and Activity Bus Services. Herrera Coaches received the ACES award. This is a family business started in 1930 and currently has 150 buses in the Albuquerque area. They also serve schools in Santa Fe, Espanola, Pojoaque, Mescalero and Los Lunas. The activity bus business is flourishing, and they travel to all 48 states, Canada and Mexico with 12 new coach buses.

For services of transporting students to school and from school daily, Herrera costs are those assigned by PED Transportation Department formula. To provide a cost advantage, ACES has agreed to a rebate at the end of the year. A check or credit will be issued to the school for 0.5% of the cost to the school for To-From services. All school buses will include front, back and stop cameras and docks. If the state requires Zonar, this will also be included at no cost.

The Activity Bus services will either meet or beat the cost of the local school district providing the services and is 10% lower than the regular rates.

Call Martin Herrera at (505) 242-1125 if you are interested in learning more about obtaining services through the ACES Award.



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INTERESTED IN SCHOOL CLEANING?

Jani King

Today we received a report from Michael Vigil, Regional Director of Jani King of New Mexico. He indicated that for any school they service, Jani King is offering a complete disinfection of their facility in lieu of issuing a credit for the extra time off. So far, all schools are taking advantage of this offer. Michael also stated that they will offer the same service for those schools that they do not service if their current cleaning company is not offering a similar service, however there will be a charge to these schools. Please call Michael Vigil at (505) 341-1070 to get your school completely disinfected.

SUPPORT THE PERSON WHO IS YOUR STAFF MEMBER THROUGH EAP

Feeling like staff are not supported well enough in their tough job of teaching these days? The unique partnership between the Public Charter Schools of New Mexico and Outcomes, Inc., a long-standing, statewide social services agency, offers charter schools the unusual opportunity to have an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This EAP provides an inexpensive array of behavioral health services for all workers and their household members -- short-term coaching and counseling, workshops on topics chosen by the school, mediation, HR support, on-line resources and more. Hear the testimonials that are growing:

"I was feeling anxious and depressed daily, it was getting harder and harder every minute of every day. It was my place of employment that provided me with the help I needed. I was so grateful to be able to talk to one of the counselors at the Employee Assistance program. My counselor was kind and attentive to my situation. It helped me to just talk to someone without being judged. It has changed my life. And I am grateful because now I can focus on being the best teacher I can be." ---- Teacher who received EAP short-term counseling/coaching.

"I feel much better that we have a safety net in place for staff, and that emotional well-being of staff is part of our conversation now." --- Principal who has EAP contract with Outcomes.

Contact Hilary Heyl, LISW, Outcomes EAP Recruitment, for more information. 505-873-8683 or hilaryhey@gmail.com

NEWS! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Links

- 37 free online platforms for schools to use during this time (and in the future!): <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/37-free-online-resources-for-schools-shifting-online-during-coronavirus/>
- One father's guide on how he's planning to home school his kids over the break: <https://www.educationnext.org/coronavirus-closing-your-kids-school-one-parents-plan-for-daddy-school-covid-19/>
- A complete list of school closings from across the country: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures.html>
- A GREAT editorial from MAS students: <https://www.abqjournal.com/1429098/how-a-charter-school-turned-lives-around-ex-three-seniors-tell-of-finding-the-right-school-fit-and-succeeding-at-mas.html>
- A flippant title, but good advice for your staff that are still working: <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-work-from-home-without-losing-your-mind/>

“Everything that is done in this world is done by hope.” Martin Luther
