



The [Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center](#) strives to provide on-demand and continuous services and supports to our educational community. The pandemic and resulting school closure have only served to increase the collaboration and a sense of community. Our ESC team has shown true professionalism, compassion, and dedication during this time. Below are some examples of what we've done, by department, to respond to district needs during this time.

Our **Administrative Team's** focus is on supporting district even more so than usual during this time. We share all Federal and State communication and network as districts are working through the process of making decisions to address the physical, mental, and academic needs of families. We all started with providing meals and enrichment and are now making the shift into academics.

Our **Early Childhood Department** is collaborating with teachers and administrators to ensure that all preschool students are receiving enrichment activities and/or instruction in accordance with each district's protocols. Materials are being distributed electronically and through the mail. In some districts, packets are available for pickup at buildings and in others, district packets are being distributed during meal delivery. In addition to the enrichment activities, teachers are calling each family once a week to provide support to students and parents and also to maintain relationships with their students. In addition, many teachers are providing video enrichment activities such as reading stories or demonstrating how to make a craft through videos, the Remind app, and private Facebook groups. The Early Childhood Program is also collaborating with districts to ensure that all special education services are continuing to be delivered to preschool special education students. Intervention teachers are contacting students on a weekly basis to do their best to meet the educational needs of each child on their caseload. ETR and IEP meetings are continuing to take place through phone

conferences or online appropriate. Professional opportunities



through Zoom when Development

have been made available to teachers and paraprofessionals so that they are able to keep current with their Licensing and SUTQ requirements.

Our **Head Start** program continues to provide services to children and families to the extent possible. The program is providing meal services to all families. Meals can be picked up at the centers with distribution conducted much like a “drive-thru” window. Families who lack transportation can have meals delivered to their homes as a “porch delivery”. Teachers are providing services through a variety of online communication apps and also using technology, such as Zoom, to complete “face to face” storytime and activities. Many teachers have also used Facebook Group pages to create private classroom groups and are also using Facetime as a way to communicate face to face with the children. It is Head Start’s belief that it is critical that children are provided opportunities to see and hear from teachers in this time of uncertainty and fear. The program utilizes a research-based parent curriculum, Ready Rosie, to continue to provide support to families. This curriculum is a technology-driven curriculum that families access through smartphones, computers, etc. Online PD is being offered to staff who are working from home through OCCRRA and the many resources that have been sent out by the ESC Superintendent and the State Support Team 16.

Occupational and Physical therapy staff in our **Related Services Department** are collaborating with individual school districts in order to provide ongoing support and individualized services for all our students. Services are being provided via activity packets and phone calls, as well as through electronic means such as Zoom and Google Classroom. Delivery methods have been individualized to meet protocols outlined by

each district. Related collaborating with intervention specialists order to support students'



services providers are classroom teachers, and speech therapists in access to

their educational curriculum. Occupational and physical therapists are continuing to participate in ETR and IEP meetings for each school district through virtual platforms as requested by school districts.

Our **State Support Team** continues to provide high-level services to the 8 county, 24 district region we serve. Consultants are providing on-demand and continuous virtual technical assistance and professional development for our stakeholders, as well as hosting live Network Meetings multiple times a week in an effort to ensure district-level administrators and educational professionals receive the most up-to-date information as the Governor's School Closing and Stay at Home Orders are in place. Additionally, these Network Meetings aim to connect stakeholders and provide an opportunity for troubleshooting, feedback, problem-solving among districts in the region. SST16 is working to modify existing professional learning opportunities into a virtual format so that districts have access to professional development opportunities during this time. SST16 consultants are working to build their own capacity through participation in online professional development and state and national level meetings and webinars in an effort to better support districts as they navigate this new educational landscape.

Our **Project RISE** Career Pathways Specialists continue to provide services to the Seniors at Miller and Athens High Schools who are using the alternative pathways to graduate this school year. The Career Pathways Specialists are making contact with many of the

seniors to check-in with their well being. At this planning and coordinating Career Events for this “Stay-at-Home” Order still expected events are will be a “Virtual” Event how it is hosted. The information is being shared with each of the 12 school districts that Project RISE serves. In addition, Career Pathways Specialists are assisting school districts to



their progress as well as time Project RISE is still our Career Expo and spring and summer. If the stands when these supposed to happen, there held; each event will differ

prepare for the next year by creating a Graduation Handbook and Tools for the new graduation requirements. By the end of the current school year, Project RISE aims to identify the students that they will be working with individually through coaching, job shadowing, and internships. Finally, Project RISE is continuously seeking additional funding for self-sustainability and is writing many grants as well as seeking new business partnerships.

The Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center is proud of the work we have done, currently do, and will continue to do to serve the needs of its districts and community.