

OnRamps Updates, Support, and Virtual Meeting this Thursday

Dear Partners,

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to shape our lives in unparalleled ways, we are actively monitoring decisions at the district and state level to inform how we can best support you and your communities, as well as maintain our operational capacity and ensure the well-being of our staff. As such, we have begun to implement a telecommuting plan for OnRamps staff. You should not expect any disruption to your partnership, nor should your teachers in their work with us. We will continue to provide the same level of consultation and support as always.

Each district is making decisions based on the unique contexts of their community needs. With that in mind, the OnRamps course staff is working diligently to prepare guidance documents and plans for enhanced support. We will distribute specific information for each course directly to your teachers by the middle of next week on the following:

- 1. District Cancellations** – Each course will address pacing revisions and course adjustments for the equivalents of 5, 10, and 15 days of missed instruction due to full cancellation or extensions of spring break.
- 2. Transition to Distance Learning** – For districts who are transitioning to a distance learning model, whether that is online or paper delivery, Instructors will be provided with guidance on delivery.
- 3. College Assessment** – Students must complete a sufficient portion of the college assessments to demonstrate mastery of the course. Each course will adhere to the standards of their UT Austin department in developing an alternate assessment plan by April 6. Assessments may be delayed as needed due to district cancellations.
- 4. Courses with College Labs** – As the residential campus has moved to online delivery, we will also provide a solution for OnRamps students in collaboration with our faculty leads.
- 5. Final Exams and Final Grades** – We are likely to stay within the same relative time frame of administration and delivery of final exams and final grades. Please know that there will be exceptions and a clearly defined process for making those requests.

In the meantime, I invite you to **join me this Thursday, March 19, at either 10am OR 2pm, for a call designed for our OnRamps district and campus administrators and curriculum partners.** I will be using this time to discuss the aforementioned items and to walk you through



March 17, 2020

an example of our distance learning experience. Specific details about how to join the virtual meeting are below.

Let me close by reaffirming to you that our operational capacity is strong. In moments like these, our extensive experience in, and knowledge of, delivering distance education informs all that we do and how we will continue to do it at the caliber that best serves you, your teachers, your students, and your unique and evolving circumstances. Know that we are committed to our partnerships and prepared to confront any challenges our statewide community may face.

Wishing you all the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Porter".

Jennifer Porter, Ph. D.

Interim Managing Director