



## Gifted Education and Online Learning Guidance During COVID-19

Prepared by PAGE Board of Directors

April 21, 2020

March 27, 2020, Governor Wolf signed an emergency School Code bill. This bill, known as Act 13 of 2020, allows for fiscal stabilization for the education community through sustaining funding for schools, protecting education employees, providing provisions for current student teachers, and pausing other statutory provisions that are not currently able to continue during PA's emergency response efforts.

The PAGE board of directors has been busy reviewing documents and directives from the U.S. Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), PATTAN, The Pennsylvania State Educators Association (PSEA), and communicating with our U.S. and State Representatives, as well as Shirley Moyer (Gifted/Special Education Adviser) from PDE. We have also been in conversations with the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), as well as other state gifted organizations. These reviews and communications have provided a clearer understanding of the information and guidance being provided to PA school district administrators in regard to education and specifically gifted education. As many of you know, information has been changing regularly. However, the PAGE board of directors, now has enough information to share with you about the status of gifted education and online learning. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available via our website, social media, e-newsletters, and so forth.

### What Parents Need to Know:

- Take care of yourself and family first
- Act 13 of 2020 requires all districts to design planned instruction for all students.
  - Districts had to submit the Continuity of Education plans to PDE by April 17, 2020.
  - Districts no longer have a choice of doing nothing.
  - District must do planned instruction and may additionally offer enrichment and review.
- State office is working through questions about gifted education case by case, because every district is operating differently at this time in regard to education
- PSEA has a very comprehensive list of steps that school districts should be following if they are moving to remote online education for continuous learning or enrichment/review. PAGE recommends that parents review this document for additional guidance. *However, the guidance provided by PAGE or PSEA does not replace set district and/or state policies and directives related to online learning.*
  - [https://www.psea.org/globalassets/issues--action/key-issues/files/alert\\_-\\_online\\_learning\\_considerations-april-15-2020.pdf](https://www.psea.org/globalassets/issues--action/key-issues/files/alert_-_online_learning_considerations-april-15-2020.pdf)
- Continue to watch the PDE website for updates and guidance as they are released

### What Teachers Need to Know:

- [PATTAN](#) and PDE have some really great resources
  - Go to [SAS Portal](#) – Learning Community Section – Gifted Resources
- Make good faith efforts to follow the guidelines coming down from the Federal government connected to IDEA and gifted education

- GIEPs and Other Paperwork:
  - Keep in contact with families
  - Document everything you are doing
  - Follow guidelines from your district concerning GIEP creation/updates
  - Meetings:
    - There is currently no direct state or federal guidance surrounding meetings – these are currently locally-based decisions by district
    - If the school district and families are okay with virtual meetings – they can be held. However, it is recommended that you proceed with caution. Again, there is no specific guidance on holding meetings this way.
  - State is waiting for more direct federal guidance, especially related to timelines, before issuing more information to school districts
  - State will work on compliance issues once they receive additional guidelines from the Federal Government and U.S. DOE
- PSEA has a very comprehensive list of steps that school districts and teachers should be following if they are moving to remote online education for continuous learning or enrichment/review. PAGE recommends that teachers review this document for additional guidance. *However, the guidance provided by PAGE or PSEA does not replace set district and/or state policies and directives related to online learning.*
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- Continue to watch the PDE website for updates and guidance as they are released

#### Questions or Concerns with Paperwork, Compliance, Education Options, etc.:

- Contact:
  - Shirley Moyer (Central and Statewide)
    - Special Education Adviser – PDE/Bureau of Special Education
    - [shirmoyer@pa.gov](mailto:shirmoyer@pa.gov)
    - 717-705-5186
  - Amy Davis (West)
    - Western PA Gifted Liason
    - [amy.davis@aiu3.net](mailto:amy.davis@aiu3.net)
    - 412-394-4193
  - Patrice Semicek
    - Eastern PA Gifted Liason
    - [psemicek@mciu.org](mailto:psemicek@mciu.org)
    - 610-755-9483
  - PAGE
    - Kacey Shoupe – Administrative Assistant
    - [info@giftedpage.org](mailto:info@giftedpage.org)

#### Additional Supports:

- Continue to watch PAGE's Facebook and Twitter accounts for new resources as they become available
- PAGE is currently working on a devoted page of resources on our website for students, parents, and teachers
- PAGE will be surveying our membership and social media followers for online training options and other resources that would be helpful during these unusual circumstances
- [PDE Website for Guidance and Resources for School Communities \(COVID-19\)](#)
- The following other NAGC state affiliate gifted associations already have a variety of resources and videos available for viewing at this time. We recommend that you visit these while PAGE's website page becomes active.
  - [National Association for Gifted Children](#)
    - NAGC has created a tip sheet for parents on "Supporting Your Gifted Child During COVID-19."
  - [Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented \(TAGT\)](#)
  - [Kentucky Association for Gifted Education](#)
  - [Ohio Association for Gifted Children](#)