Recommendations for Instructional Leaders

The *Recommendations for Instructional Leaders* are designed to provide action steps and guidance for principals, coaches, counselors, social workers, media coordinators and others who support educators and staff in their transition to remote learning.

RATIONALE

During the COVID-19 crisis, communities across the world are adjusting to a new way of life, "Stay Home, Save Lives" that impacts all facets of their lives, including education. School leadership is essential to help teachers, students and families adjust to learning from home.

1 Communicate a Clear Vision

In this time of constant change in our personal and professional lives, school leaders should communicate a clear vision for teaching and learning remotely. The *Instructional Design Principles for Remote Learning* provides a common language for lesson design and reflection that school leaders can share with instructional leaders.

2 Support Educators and Staff in Implementing Instruction

Teachers need support from school and instructional leaders to develop effective remote learning lesson plans to meet the needs of all students. This includes, but is not limited to: guidance counselors, social workers, instructional technology facilitators, district office specialists, Exceptional Children teachers, Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) specialists, coaches, media coordinators, and teacher assistants.

3 Develop Communication Structures

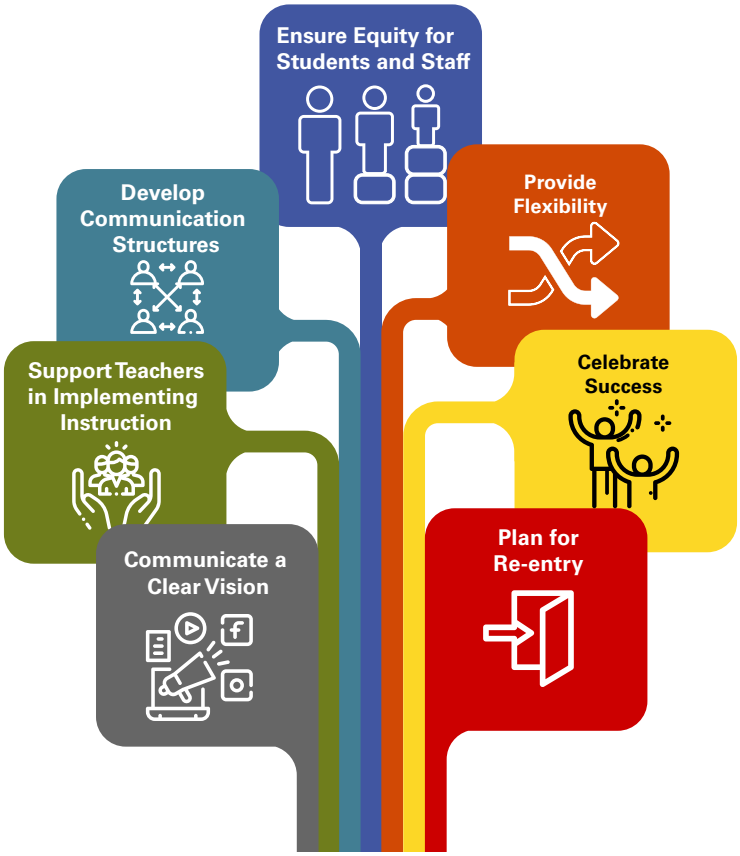
Focusing on communication structures that will sustain your school community and reinforce a sense of belonging across distances helps everyone. It is important to think about the entire school community, including teachers, staff, students and parents. Communication with these groups is always important, but is especially vital in time of crisis.

4 Ensure Equity for Students and Staff

Crises have a way of exposing the inequities in our society, and the most vulnerable communities tend to suffer the most. During these times, it is vital that instructional leaders provide the necessary structures that allow the staff to continue to "deliver equitable opportunities for every student...bearing in mind that 'fair' is not always 'equal', and equal is not always equitable" as defined in the NC Equity Plan.

5 Provide Flexibility

Everyone is adjusting to new schedules, a new way of life and full-time remote learning is definitely new for everyone. We must recognize that the shift to remote learning is difficult for families, as they are now asked to provide a home learning environment for their children. Encouraging administrators, teachers, students and families to be flexible is essential as we are all figuring out remote learning together.



6 Celebrate and Appreciate Efforts.

Because everything is changing so quickly, it is easy to focus on the challenges and the daily obstacles, rather than the successes. Celebrating the small victories and highlighting what is working well will go a long way with staff members.

7 Plan for Re-entry

While the focus is clearly on transitioning to remote instruction, it is important to start making plans for the transition back to face-to-face instruction. This is important for instructional elements, as well as extra-curricular and end of year events and processes. The timeline may be nebulous, but having some key components in place to welcome students back will accelerate and ease the transition to face-to-face learning.