

Dear Urban Collaborative Community,

We hope that everyone reading this is well. As you might have anticipated, we are going to cancel the upcoming in-person Urban Collaborative meeting in May. Members have been sharing general concerns about flying, restricted travel policies, and questions about how to move forward if a school or district closes, and Albuquerque Public School confirmed that the COVID-19 virus has also landed in New Mexico.

Our priority is that you stay safe. We also want to provide you with timely resources and facilitate the support of your Urban Collaborative colleagues. To this end, we are collecting resources that we hope will be useful to you, such as the U.S. Department of Education's [Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#). We are also asking folks to send us questions that we can address and post solutions that we can also use. One example: "What are ways to provide IEP-required specialized instruction and related services if schools/districts are forced to close due to COVID-19? Would this fall to compensatory ed?" We will post these resources and questions on our [website](#). Please ask questions and share recourse that you think will be beneficial to your colleagues. You can send them to our Urban Collaborative [email](#).

We are also working to develop online sessions to be held in May so that you can have time to connect with colleagues during a virtual meeting. Topics we are considering are how to address issues/concerns if the Coronavirus continues to plague us, a facilitated conversation for new leaders, and a book or chapter study. We are working with our IT folks to create a space for us to engage with you during our meeting dates and will share more information once we have a solid plan in place.

For now, here is what you need to know:

- *Hotel* – There will be no cost to members associated with cancelling their reservation.
- *Flights* – Flights that we booked/purchased can be rescheduled for travel completed no later than one year from the date of the original purchase. Districts will be able to use the credit for our next meeting.
- *Registration fees* – All registration fees can be applied to our next meeting. Districts will be able to use the registration for other district staff if the staff member that originally registered is not able to attend the next meeting. However, if you prefer, reach out to us and we will refund your registration fee.

We know that this is an incredibly trying time for people in general, and for district leaders in particular, as your responsibilities are tremendous. Please know that our thoughts are with everyone. We hope that you, your families, and your community stay healthy. The Urban Collaborative is a strong community and we encourage you to reach out to each other for support. Do not hesitate to connect with us to ask questions, share concerns, and provide ideas that you think your colleagues might find beneficial.

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