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From the U.S. Department of Education: Thank you for joining our conversation

1 message

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Dear Superintendents,

On behalf of Secretary Cardona and Deputy Secretary Marten, thank you for participating in the Regional Superintendent Roundtable last Friday, January 28. We are committed to ensuring the U.S. Department of Education is a service agency, and conversations with you and superintendents across the country help us better understand the needs of students, educators and schools. We are grateful for your time and open and honest dialogue. Your job has never been easy, but the past two years (and counting!) have put you to the test. We appreciate everything you are doing to keep everyone safe, while helping students learn, grow and thrive.

As a follow up to the conversation, we wanted to share links to several of the resources that were mentioned:

1. COVID-19 Testing

- a. Testing is an important part of COVID mitigation strategies. To help troubleshoot some of your questions on how to start testing, access resources and use various funding streams, visit <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/testing-resources>.
- b. The Administration recently announced access to an additional 5M rapid antigen tests for schools, as well as capacity for 5M more PCR tests. See [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Increases COVID-19 Testing in Schools to Keep Students Safe and Schools Open | The White House](#) for more information. Districts with questions about how to access these resource should contact their State Department of Health, and can also email the CDC at covidschooltesting@cdc.gov with logistical questions.

2. Staffing Shortages

- a. The Department recently released resources on addressing teacher and staff shortages: “Using American Rescue Plan Funds and Other Federal Supports to Address Teacher Shortages” at <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/arp-teacher-shortages.pdf> and “Using American Rescue Plan Funds and Other Federal Supports to Address Staff Shortages” at <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/arp-staff-shortages.pdf>.
- b. As shared in the Zoom chat by Kirk Miller of Montana, the Montana Rural Teacher Project has resources for addressing educator shortages in rural areas: <https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/mat/tqp.html>.

3. American Rescue Plan (ARP)

a. We encourage you to share the ways you are using ARP funds throughout your school communities. The Department recently launched #ARPStars, a social media campaign highlighting schools, states, and educators – in their own words – doing everything they can to fight COVID-19 and give students, teachers, and families the tools they need to succeed. Check out [our first few posts](#). Share your projects, use the hashtag and we will lift up the posts!

Please feel free to reach out to us if you need anything and know that you have a dedicated partner in the U.S. Department of Education.

Be safe and healthy,

Office of Communications and Outreach