



April 6, 2020

To our WAY Partners,

We again hope this message finds you and your family well. Things have moved quickly in regards to education here in the state of Michigan and we wanted to take a moment to provide a quick update and a few reminders.

As defined in section X of the Executive Order issued by Governor Whitmer, the WAY Program can continue to provide learning opportunities as a partner to your district. Our online experts are evaluating student work as normal and all other staff has moved their operations to 100% virtual. The only change WAY Program students will notice is the closure of the in-person labs. Also, please be aware that any Internet capable device such as a Chrome book and other mobile devices can access HERO and have full functionality. Therefore, it is not necessary to have an Apple iMac or laptop for every student.

The WAY Program prides itself in being able to provide a flexible option. As your districts move to a new format for the remainder of this school year, we wanted to let you know we can be adaptable as well. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any ideas or needs we can assist with. Here are some ways in which we could help:

- Reconfigure credit requirements to align with district requirements for this school year
- Special training for district staff who work or will be working with WAY students via the HERO platform (i.e. Special Education teachers trained to evaluate student work)
- Guidance and tech assistance for any new technology purchased for WAY students
- We stand ready to explore how we might assist you with your whole student population as well as your teaching staff

### **Twelfth Grade Students**

Due to the fact that all WAY services and learning opportunities are still operational, twelfth grade students enrolled with your district's WAY program can continue their coursework as normal. However, should a need arise specific to your district's COVID-19 Response Plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. As always, it is our goal to help all of our seniors stay on track and graduate.

As an additional service WAY can provide templates of projects to your non-WAY graduating seniors that are customized to provide an individual path for each senior to finish their credits to graduate *at no additional cost*. For example, one of your seniors may need to complete a smaller amount of a math class that can be fulfilled by completing one of our projects in HERO designed to hit the content standards the student may not have completed without having to retake a course or numerous assignments and tests. This service will include support from WAY staff to work with district staff as they assist their seniors with these projects.



**Special Education Services:**

The HERO learning platform has many supports built into the system that allow all students to have access to a variety of accommodations and learning modalities. The onsite WAY staff is available and can work in collaboration with the assigned providers virtually rather than in the classroom. As mentioned above, we are happy to explore further training options for district staff who work with WAY students. You may want to consider enrolling specific special education students into WAY so that we can work with you to meet the individual students' needs virtually through our HERO platform that has projects with accommodations as well as online Michigan Certified Special Education teachers.

These are just suggestions. If there are specific needs within your district, please feel free to reach out so we can discuss. We are here to work collaboratively with you and your district to best serve students.

Again, we applaud all that you are doing in your district to educate and support students and their families.

Be Well,

Rich Klemm  
Madeline Black  
Holly Ploch