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Okay, so I want to welcome everyone my name is Michelle Lewis, and I'm the executive director of the Parent Information Center and I'm joined by Bonnie Dunham, who's our lawn policy specialist here at the Parent Information Center.

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We want to thank you all for attending today we've had almost 100 people register for this chat. So, in order to accurately capture who's attended we are asking you to please put your name in the chat.

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And it can only be seen by us so it's not a public chat at this point. so if you're able to do that I'd appreciate it.

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We are really excited to highlight the opportunities for families that are available from the New Hampshire Department of Education, and we're pleased to have Commissioner edible here to share information with us, we've structured the chat to provide

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as much information as possible about these programs in the limited time that we have.

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So this is being recorded and we will be posting it on the website. Please note that we do have live captioning available so on the bottom of your screen.

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There's a closed captioning and if you click that button, and add put add subtitles you will have subtitles that will scroll at the bottom of your screen.

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Please note that this is an automatically generated live captioning. And so we apologize for any inaccuracy that may come up because again it's auto generated.

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Couple of things for housekeeping participants are muted, and ideally videos are off the chat is set up, only to message the host and co host, so please submit your questions through the chat and we will summarize them and ask them, have Commissioner

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a blue. So Commissioner blue is going to be sharing information about each program individually, and you'll also have the opportunity to ask questions about specific programs as we go along.

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And at the end we will also have additional time to field, general questions, but in respect for both the commissioners time and all of your time, we will end promptly at one o'clock.

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So Bonnie from the Parent Information Center is going to facilitate the discussion and ask your questions of the commissioner. So, and if we don't get to all of your questions there will be an opportunity for us to collect them, and the commissioner has

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agreed to answer them and we'll post them later on.

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Excellent.

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Okay, so welcome to Commissioner, blue, and I believe we are turning it over to you now.

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Great, thank you so much for letting me join you. I really appreciate it.

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I think that this is actually a wonderful opportunity. As I was thinking about all of the various programming that we've got going on the department, I think it's great.

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Anytime we have the opportunity to help push that out to families and parents, so that they know what's out there because oftentimes I think the message is clear and it's there.

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But at other times, sometimes it's you, you may not hear about these various programs.

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There is a lot going on, and that's a good thing and it's a bad thing it's a good thing because there's a lot of options for you and your families. Too bad thing because I have a lot of stuff that I want to talk about.

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I will share some of the programs, just even briefly. And if you need more information please reach out to the Department of Education or you can reach out through Michelle and Bonnie, and they can get that, you know, the request to us so we can get you

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more specific information, just because I don't know if I can go into all the details about all the various programs that we've got going on at the present time.

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So I am going to start with one of the programs which many of you participated in, which is our sixth very bright future survey. If you recall last, it was in the springtime so I think we want us in May or oh actually this on June 3 That's why 603 get

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it. So June 3 we launched a family survey, and it had sections or family members, educators education leaders, community members all weigh in on how the year went by, remember that last year we had like 56,000 people responded to such a survey.

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This year, everybody was a little less enthusiastic but we did have over 20,000 responses to that survey.

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We have used a professional survey company to help us compile the results for that, and we are going to be pushing that out in the next few days and he goes out maybe next week, and you'll be able to explore all of that data and what encourage you to

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do that in terms of I know the responses by your districts by your state by all different kinds of information and their professional it's a professional website that allows you to do that data exploration, more easily so encourage you to jump on the

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63 Bright Futures survey and take a look at some of those results. The next program that I want to read to your attention is a program that we're working on through the.

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The PG grants, which is basically an early childhood grant, and it's a program with Waterford upstart. Now we did a pilot with this last year, I think we had about 200 students in it in the Nashville area.

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And this is a preschool program so it is for students before they enter school, working with their families, and you can enroll and it's a nice learning program, easy entry school readiness and would encourage you to, to look into that if you've got a

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little at home and you're thinking about how do we get them, certainly get them ready for school.

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It's a research based program, we love it it seems like a great opportunity for families and students and so again would encourage you to reach out for the Waterford upstart.

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And then the next program that I wanted to talk about before I jump into the more detailed program is the education freedom accounts. So as you know the legislature or maybe you don't know the legislature passed a law.

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In the spring, that enabled parents to make an option to direct their state adequacy education funds towards educational programming that they think is best for their child when a parent does that that means that they may use those state education for

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education costs \$5 to go to another public school outside of their district if they think that that's going to be a better fit for their child.

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It could be that they want their child to be able to go to a private school and non public school, so they're able to use those funds to go to that school, or it could be that they want to be in a home education type of a program in that setting.

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And so that's also an option for them. There are some limitations with regard to those funds, if you adopt an education freedom account.

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You would be leaving behind your IEA rights and it will be considered privately. So at that point in time important important considerations around that.

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But if you have questions and you want to discuss that we're happy to walk you through exactly what that looks like and what that means, but another opportunity for your family, there's not a ton of information out about that at this point in time we

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do expect that we will be enrolling people for the fall.

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But truthfully the law has not taken effect until and it doesn't take effect until August 27.

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But we have got no limited rules that we've worked on and we've got a contract in place to the scholarship organization and they're already collecting applications for that.

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And so now I'm going to share my screen because we've got some of these programs that I think are, you know, exciting and, but I want to show you where you're going to be able to get some of the information about them.

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And so, yes. Could you tell us where people can find more information around Waterford upstart we did have somebody posted in the chat that it was a great program for their little one during the pandemic.

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So I want to make sure because you highlighted it, where people, or about any of the, the couple you've already talked about as well.

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Because I violated the first rule which is you asked me to pause after each, so that you can ask me questions and I failed to do that. So, what I would tell you is that i don't i don't know but I will get that information to you, Michelle I don't remember

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where that word for stuff is working on that program, but we can get that for you on the education radio accounts, you can go to zefanh.org.

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Or if you google education freedom accounts.

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Any division freedom. Yeah, I think it's efa.org, I shouldn't know these websites off top my head, and then the Bright Futures that website is not live for you yet but that will be coming out from the department and your future and I apologize for that.

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And whatever, make sure you give us after we'll, we'll make sure to post and get all those good links for you so then you'll have all that episode, hopefully you're seeing my screen right now which is the current website.

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Is that what you all see. Yes, verify. Okay, so if you go to the Department website and you scroll down, I am going to take a moment to just let you know that we are somewhat disrupted over here at Lonergan Hall, they are doing some work on the building

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and so we are, as an agency we have not been dispersed across four different locations will be a walker and Johnson malls and least phase of our current state college.

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So maybe a little bit more difficult to to connect sometimes with us, but the building itself is close to its have to reach out, but if you continue down under you'll see the three programs that I want to kind of lean in on heavily right now that talk

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about the fourth one, are the learning ponds, the yes every student program and the rekindling curiosity.

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So learning pods and again if we click on this, you'll get it will take you to a website that will give you more information.

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And what that means is that it is, it's not a brand new thing because of the pandemic it was taking place before that, but then during the pandemic we saw a real proliferation of this I think there's as many as 4 million students is the last number I

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heard, who are involved in some type of a learning part instructional model and that's really what it is kind of an instructional model. And that is their small groups of students.

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And that means that between five and 10 students in a group.

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They are multi age, and this is a K eight program, and they are kind of as I refer to as trauma sensitive or anxiety sensitive environments, a little bit more family life, because of the smallness because of the small group, and how they function.

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There is a combination of academic content there's a combination of conquer which is a project that the kids get and then there's a section in the in the instruction that deals really with collaboration with the students working with one another.

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And you are able to sign up for those. And there are two ways for you to sign up and there's videos out there about what the learning part is how you get at the learning pod, there's an FAQ on our website and download the frequently asked question that

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explains a lot of different information about it.

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The Learning pod program is really set up in two ways. So we are offering this program to the school districts, so many of our districts have been looking for educational options for their own communities and how do we support our communities.

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One of the ways that I've seen this most recently is, they may, you may have in your community. Some families who do not win, want to wear masks but the policy for the district is that they're going to wear masks and so perhaps they can have a massive

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policy in their small learning lab where it could be that you find that you have families who want to wear masks and the school district policy is such that they're not going to be masking. And so this would give you an opportunity to again support those

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families and meet the needs for where they are, the school district will be organizing the pie, it can, it may take place at the school or it may take place in some offsite capable location that the school lacks.

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I've heard everything from Taekwondo centers to local libraries, which is where they may also take place.

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And they are under the, the supervision of a natural certified educator. Again, it's kind of a known educational or instructional model that you're seeing when a student signs up for this through their district pod.

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The district will continue to have oversight and responsibility for students, special education needs, and they're meeting the requirements of their ID, their IEP.

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And depending upon the nature of the IEP. Your those some of those accommodations will take place in the actual learning pod, but just like in the school if a student needs pull out for ot for example or PTR then they might find themselves in a pullout

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situation for the OT, PT.

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But that's something that you can work on with your district if you're in a district money pot.

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Now, if you're not if your district does not offer learning pod, because some districts are not although many of them are signing up again. These days, as we get closer and closer, what you will.

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We also are offering our Community Learning pause. And so these are for families who still want the learning pie but it's not available through their school district, and they would those individuals within sign up, and as it were filing intend to home

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educate their students and their student would be enrolled in a full time program with the learning pods. And so there are essentially going to school in some other location.

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The Community Learning product again they happen in a Taekwondo center a library if it even happened in someone's home.

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And in that small cohort. And so those students you find a home education would be a meaning behind their special education support, and so I'll talk about another program for that in a moment.

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I'm in that learning environment. Although the learning part itself through the company that we're working with Brenda is able to meet many of the IDP accommodations, through the work that they do.

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Ordinarily, and the experiences that we have again across ways of students is that oftentimes, some of the conditions that resulted in some of those IPS are resolved because of the small group cohorts, small learning the multi age.

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Those actually allowed us to be successful in that learning environment. Now for both of these programs.

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We are the state has committed to pay for them for two years, whether that's a district money pot, or it's a Community Learning pod.

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And so really for your school districts there's not a penalty to the school district associated with, you know, saying like well if we do this learning pod, then we have to stand up another system so it is covered.

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And again, the idea was that it would allow the schools to offer some promise sensitive work for their students so that they would be able to help begin to assimilate them back in if that's something that they wanted to do.

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And that same pain for two years applies to the Community Learning products also. So, that is available to the families to be able to, to, to use if they think that that is a good fit for their students in terms of what they're learning.

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It was interesting I was doing a new beginning I got to see a lot of the people who were on here. I was doing a presentation about learning pods to the special Educators Association.

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Nada nada. I said that curtain.

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So it's the New Hampshire, association of special education educator or something like that, probably got that wrong. Sorry guys, um, and it was you know somebody may raise the point they said like, Well, why would we want to do this right like why would

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I ever think of just doing this we offer great instruction in our school we offer great instruction for our families, everything is perfect. And I happen to know the district that this person was from and they also know what their outcomes are and I said

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like, you can see that right like it's just not true to say that everything is perfect and everything is working just exactly how the one.

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This is an emerging instructional model. And why would we not want to if we're a school leader, trying to find ways to implement these emerging innovations in education to see if they can help all of our students succeed because we do know that you know

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we do need some of our students behind some of our students with the most needs will be behind. I'm in that process so this is another option another tool in your tool belt to try and help meet the needs of all of their students.

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So again, encourage my school leaders, and so if you're if you want to have a district learning pod and your school is not at this point, offering that we would encourage you to talk to your school leaders, talk to your principal talk politics Superintendent

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say hey I really want to do a you know a learning pod Can you guys do a district learning pod, you know, who knows, maybe you are that phone call it heard from other parents and that's the one that pushes them over the top and if they're like, you know

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what I think that we might want to do something for families that we've heard from a lot of families.

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Because what we don't want to have happen is that you have a number of families who want this, the districts are not offering it and so the students are leaving the district to be able to access this we want to make sure that the district can access as

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well. And then one other aspect of the finances associated with this is, so the department is also paying an administrative fee to the districts that set these up, because we do know that there will be some degree of administration on their part to be

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able to administer the learning part, as well as your rent stipend for those districts you don't have the ability to do it in your own building and they're going to have some outside space that they'll be working on.

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So learning part something I'm really excited about and quite frankly, we have a lot of families who are pretty enthusiastic and excited about doing that.

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And I'm going to read it one more time. So, last summer I was encouraging learning pods across the state, you know we're working on a reopening plan to like hey you know look at learning pods could be a good option.

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We had your way.

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And one of our districts that did do it right so they set up learning pods there's under the supervision of their teachers. And, you know, the parents, and one of the parents, was also, you know, a first grade educator for one of the districts who was

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working in the learning pod, just describe the experience for their little child, as I know life changing she was. She goes, this was the most enriching educational opportunity and this is somebody who's been working in education for you know well over

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a decade, and just was impressed and just said, it's reflected in her child, and so exciting news there.

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So then the next one I want to stop. Oh yeah, good, good girl Thank you paused Commissioner So, yeah, we do have a couple of questions about the learning part.

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Okay, go ahead. Go for it. Yes, I'm Bonnie. Thanks. So people asked which districts are offering learning pods and are they available to students now.

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So they probably aren't available to students now because the school year hasn't started in these districts, you know, and I might not get this all right, in terms of who they are but I know for example Bo Londonderry and evil.

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And there's one more tip of my tongue that I can't remember. So I think there are five districts at this point.

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Let's be updated on the website as as new districts.

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Begin participating. I guess we don't even list the districts that are participating we assume that the parents would be talking to their district and saying hey is this available to us.

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Okay, excellent.

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And then we also want to know if people want to form a community pod in a district, who's responsible for identifying the location the teacher, and so on.

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Yeah, so basically friend of once you if you decide to if you want to have a community party with your district doesn't have one. So I just want to make sure there's a distinction between a district five, and the pot right to a district pod is with the

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school. And so the school district would be really needed and having responsibility relative to location participation those different kinds of things.

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If it's a community pod it's going to work with, you're going to work through a friend who is the company that we've contracted with to run the learning was, and they will work on locations and educators that guides is what they call them in that process

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and so they'll take care of that so Uin. If you want, I mean if you fill out this, if you go back to that website.

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If you do one of these signups that information will automatically get forwarded and then somebody from your friend, it would be reaching out to you. And then if you go I think that there's a Facebook page, hate to admit it but I'm not actually on Facebook

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I don't actually I know I have some Facebook pages that other people post up on that item.

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So I understand a Facebook group around this for Brenda learning pods and stuff like that, and you can get information there also. And I'm sure that they would be happy to, you know, explain that to they've got, you know a number of staff in the state

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that are working setting all this up.

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So, and another parents, who has a medically fragile family member, again about how some of the options seem to be similar to relax in her children need direct instruction.

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Is that something that's available through the learning pods or learning pots they do include, you know, technology in the instruction, but it is in person instruction right like you're working with the guys through the instruction to make sure that the

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students are able to access their instruction able to get stuff.

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So, I think that answered that question mine. Thank you very much. Then someone said additional learning Clyde question that the multi age groupings listed in the literature firm, so that if someone needed a little bit of an adjustment, or mixed up, second

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and third graders, for example, could they be grouped together. The, so they're not for those are just kind of like a, you know, an estimate as to what it looks like.

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But, so those are not for each kid is I mean it's a totally a personalized learning setup right so the children are going to come in and and you're going to meet them where they are and you're going to move them forward.

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You know through that process so that's not firm it's just an example of how they might be.

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It was going to depend on the pod right if you have a whole bunch of, you know, persons, maybe have a lid on it you only have first and second graders and right, as opposed to learning by that he has some, you know, something eighth graders and.

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So again, just going to depend on what the composite is of the pod. Okay, excellent. And we have received some general questions just to let people know we're going to save those for you for the end.

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Okay, got it.

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So next one I'm going to lean in and how am I doing, I'm doing pretty good on time so I'm going to try and keep it moving. And am I going too fast five years is not for me.

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Great, thank you. Okay, great. So rekindling curiosity is another program that we have one that I was particularly excited about, and just give you a little bit of background for how we ended on up on this weekend went through our city program is I would

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be involved in drug screening with these national calls and national education leaders from across the country.

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and oftentimes the conversation.

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No meandered into the area of like well we're just going to have them summer school and we're going to put these kids in school and get someone's learning loss where we going to do how we're going to catch these kids up, you know, just make them go to

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more school. And I thought to myself, like, you know, just listening to people I mean clearly they forgot what it's like to be a kid, because the kids that I know are generally not that excited about summer school.

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They're interested in hanging out with their friends having a break and so the idea behind rekindling curiosity, was to as well help support our school districts who I heard from many of them had difficulty staffing some of the summer programming like

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there were many educators who just were feeling fatigued after a tough year and wanting to take a break, and so it was more difficult for school districts to staff some of their summer programming.

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So this was another opportunity to give parents an option and also get this goes a little bit of a break if they're trying to solve some of their staffing issues rekindling curiosity is really about everything goes to camp.

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The reality is that we need to get this money into like March 26 and so we try to roll it out as quickly as we could, I would say I'm a little bit disappointed like we didn't get as many camps participating as I wanted to not participate, which was really

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disappointing to me know we tried to make it easy but you know it was a brand new program for the camps too right like it wasn't, they weren't ready for this and many of them like but I'm already fully subscribed Why would I join you frequently curiosity

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I'm like, because you have disadvantaged kids I can get money back for it. How about that that's a good reason to fill out paperwork.

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So we got some, we didn't use it all which is so the downside is we didn't meet all of our goals that we had this year, in terms of participation. But the good news is that the money will stay there and we're going to run it again next year, and create

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another opportunity for those kids, and that will give me some more lead time with my camps because that's really where it fell down is no it was a bit of a left for camps to be signing agreements and getting everything signed up, but basically what this

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did is, and I'm going to just highlight some of the aspects here for you Bonnie in particular is so for students with how to having a disability, you know, we basically awarded them, you know, \$650, per students at 250 below the federal poverty level

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they got \$500 and corner below they got \$250, choosing one or more camps that they may or may not have attended. And I would tell you that if you have somebody who attended account.

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You, they can still pay for that in arrears right like I said they went to a qualified camp and they paid for it out of their pocket.

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As long as the camp signs up to make them eligible to receive funding, then they can still get reimbursed for that.

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And so essentially the way that it works though and I think that this is important to understand the logistics of it is a parent would fill out a application, and we have a company called tax management that is managing application.

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And that would be adjudicated based on the criteria that we have established, and they would receive an award.

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And then that award would get passed over to a company called class wallet and I realized that this is really confusing Is it any wonder why it's so hard for everybody right, they would go to class wallet which is sort of like a Benbow account right so

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we put money in event mode now that America then spend it and we have the approved camps. Now what we also needed we needed the camp to fill out an application to be able to do it to make sure they were qualified, and then the camp had to set up a digital

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wallet. So in the first year there was a lot of places where this thing could have run into trouble. You know like I feel that the number of questions from parents like well I finished the application effects news you know like okay now you got to get

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your account signed up over a glass wallet. So you have the money. And then, you know, then they get the money like but I want to spend it here I'm like, but that camp hasn't signed up yet.

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So, again, that was just build in terms of its ability to be more effective.

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But it allowed the parents to spend that money, where they thought was the best place to spend it. Now one or more camps and, you know, I didn't know there were some kids who were going to multiple accounts, they just said was enough money for them to

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afford to go to different programming. And so they would go ahead and they would start doing that.

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So this is another good opportunity to try and create, you know, rekindling curiosity and types of opportunities where our kiddos. You know it has been a tough year for all of us.

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But children. I know, maybe more vulnerable to some of them and so this was an opportunity as I like to say be on these calls and everybody says it's got to go to summer school and like, it's got to go outside and run around friends is what they really.

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And so this was about getting kids to be able to go outside and run around with their friends. they say when grass between your toes I want to finding it three I want to explain to me the all the things that kids are supposed to experience as a grown

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Of all the things that kids are supposed to experience as they're growing up, that's what we were after. With this program.

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And so that's what this is about. I mean we continue to apply. Because if somebody gets adjudicated, you know, eligible when we run the program next year that are up and running and you already have your class Wallet account setup, and they're ready to

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to go and once the it work camps and they can jump in on it is going to be a summertime program as opposed to a school time further.

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So questions for this one.

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First one parents said that their camp wasn't accepted because they didn't have their own transportation so she was wondering, what is the criteria that camps need to meet to be able to enroll in this program.

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So that was another thing that we try to do here we wanted when did not want to participate is that they would offer your transportation, as well as food because we didn't want to create a situation where you have to have enough nuts.

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offer scholarships, but if mom or dad gave you to the camp, then you don't get to go anyways right so we've seen barriers that exists where they're all the way from the beginning.

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But again, I think partly because I know the program was set up so late and they're like we don't have time or the ability to kind of set up any kind of transportation or any type of a meal type of a program that your work camps who did not participate

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because of that, we try to relax those somewhat and say like look you just facilitating, they can they can get the camp. We don't really, you don't have to provide the transportation but you can facilitate the transportation right so if you say like well

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I have a camper coming from this neighborhood. And would you be willing and you know you have, you can drive, would you be willing to, you know, take your neighbor and drive your neighbor, your neighbor kids were trying to facilitate it.

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So I think, you know, we put those in place and it's not that they made a lot of sense I think we can do a better job on that for next year in terms of what are the requirements and give people some time to be able to get it set up in a way that doesn't

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make it more difficult for the camps. I think that our intention was good to make sure that kids that are disadvantaged don't get left out.

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But in the end, what we did is we limited the number of camp because some camps that we can do that and therefore we limited more people. And that was the unintended consequences that particular policy.

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So, Commissioner. Another question was mentioned next year and that you may have some funds leftover, and so parents were concerned that they tried to enroll late in the spring, and we're unable to.

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Is there a time frame by which they should enroll to be sure to get in for next year.

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So we will keep the enrollment open on a rolling basis throughout the process so it's just it's not we're not going to close it down we're going to continue to take enrollments.

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So it'll be open enrollment rolling enrollment. That's how we think we're gonna do is we're just gonna have a continuous open enrollment process right and maybe what I'll do is, you know, I'm going to guess that people are going to sort of not think about

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that when they go into like September get back to school and stuff like that. So maybe in like know November or something will announce you know hey if you haven't signed up already.

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Sign up for rekindling curiosity and will apparent be informed that they, their child has been accepted fairly early on so they can make alternate plans if they need to.

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Yep. So what happens is if you so when you enroll, so you from backs management, you fill out your application and you get adjudicator with that you've been awarded.

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You get a notification from the Department of that award. And then the next notification you get as an email from class wallet and class wallet is a link to allow you to set up your account.

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And so then once you set up your account with class wallet you have a funded demo account that you can then spend with any enrolled camp. So if you're in November, you don't see your camp on that list for the next summer, and you can go to the camp and

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they have plenty of runway to basically get themselves set up so it's not going to be a rush for them either.

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So if someone already enrolled this year they don't have to re enroll for next year.

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answer to that, but I'll find out. Okay, excellent and if a parent has a hard time filling out the form on their own, they didn't know how to apply on their own Is there someone at the department who would help out.

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So, there's just such a volume that we don't have the ability to fill out people's count so what we said is, and all of the camps that were participating agreed that camps will help the parents fill it out because you may have somebody who doesn't have

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internet access right.

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Just to let you know like so the company fax management that's doing this, and I know it wasn't seamless for anybody necessarily there but they work with literally, you know I think several million students across the country who are filling out these

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applications.

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They work with disadvantaged folks who are not used to maybe the sophistication of a system, and they say like they have tried to make your application as easy as possible like you need to fill out you need to send it in a copy of the students IP snap

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a picture on your phone and you can upload it off your phone.

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So they've tried to make it as simple as possible they have an entire customer service department that will walk you through that application completion process, or I would turn to the camp as well.

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Okay, great. So you start to fill it out of last resort. Okay, excellent, and you still wanted to talk about the yes scholarships, and then my last question there, and the free tutoring through schoolhouse world and so we want to know.

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Yes. So yes, there's another program that we're rolling out and you guys just, I just, I would ask that you'd be a little bit patient like we're trying to move these things forward as quickly as we can, you know, as this money comes in and I get that

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know they're happening quickly there sometimes we're working out some of the issues associated with it. But anyway, so these are funds that are available for you know certain qualified people, and so the first is if you are a public school students.

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you are 400% or below the federal poverty level, or you have a disability right so there's no income qualification if you have an IEP, you can get up to \$1,000 for supplemental services. And so this was for the parents that I know talk this relative to the

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disability.

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No, I heard from I hear all the time from families and sometimes families are like look I tried to get diabetes, to put this straight the service of VIP but they wouldn't write in VIP but I really think my kid would benefit from it.

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And so this is an opportunity for you to again get one of those Benbow accounts to be able to spend with, you know, to spend on the services, and those services would be provided by their certified master certified educator for special education therapist

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or a licensed therapist, until again, a complicated process but maybe if these things can continue then we'll get better at it, but. So not only does the family have to apply and get their demo account, but then say you want to go to special education

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services with a special education teacher that teacher as well needs to fill out an agreement and sign up for the mentor account because when you hate a teacher you don't pay it directly to the teacher, you pay it from your vendor account that there have

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minimal account and then they can get the money. So what happens is that teacher has to get a demo account so that they can be authorized to receive the funds.

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It's not like you get to then just take your vendor account spend it on anybody you run into on the screen. It's a limited number and that's just a fraud protection that we have built into the system.

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So again, for families with disabilities, you know, families, economically disadvantaged there's an option. And then we as well did it for non public school students who are, you know, 25 250% are below the federal poverty level or 400%, below the federal

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poverty level. And so we also are making that available to them because what you, what we know is that we didn't have a lot of students.

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No I comment relatives my diocese schools that just fill them up right, for whatever reason, the instructional model that their public school that their children have been going to for a long time.

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The model that they set up last September was not one that they were comfortable with so they put their students in to a non public school and oftentimes I was non public schools were able to offer a lot of in person instruction and that was something

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that many parents wanted.

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And so a lot of people signed up for those but it was spread and so this is just help them kind of taper off after the pandemic.

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So another opportunity. So there's no real effect on, you know, a student with a disability relative to \$1,000 other than the benefit associated with that.

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If a student goes into a non public school, then the same criteria would apply, you know, just a normal circumstance if they go to a non public school then they're eligible for services but not, you know, for services, and can people stack up for example,

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could they get an education freedom account, and the scholarship and some other things that are being offered are Is it one or the other. No, so we have made them stackable, so they are you aren't able to stack them multiple things together.

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Much Commissioner no blue is it truly event mo account or was it is it.

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You called it something else. It's not a bimbo account, really I just use that the generic term because everybody knows what that is. It's actually what's called class wallet so the digital wallet.

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Okay, thank you all like if you already have a vendor account that's not going to help you you have to get a digital wallet from class one with a dedicated.

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Okay, great. thank you. Thank you.

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Any other questions on someone filed paid the tuition for their child. Two days before the yes scholarship acceptance letter came out, can they be reimbursed after the fact.

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so they were accepted after they paid the tuition.

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Yeah, so what would happen is again because it goes through the demo account is just like the campus as well. So you hate it so now you would go through once your demo account has been funded, you would go to the school and you'd pay your tuition to the

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school and the school will refund your money, but I can't let a guy can't send you money. I can only keep money inside that system between the authorized providers the parent, the family that been approved and the authorized vendor or the school or provider.

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So what you have to do is you just go back to the school and say like hey I'm going to, you know, use my class wallet digital wallet to pay you.

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You know another 20 \$500, but can you then refund me the extra 20 \$500 because I've overpaid. And so that's what how you would facilitate a refund. And is that program only for this year or do you expect that to continue beyond this year.

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So it just depends on the usage is what we'll see if I have, again if I have money left over.

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Okay. Okay, thank you, thank you.

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And then the last one that you guys wanted to touch base on his school house dot world.

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And so school has that world gap. I should have pulled it up I don't have it up right now but if you just go to school house dot world, the schoolhouse.

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This will have several yeah school house that world.

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What you will find it let me just stop the share all it up.

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Like, show it to you.

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Yes, I think the visual helps, so thank you for that.

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Nice.

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I also want to say I do appreciate that the department is also looking at the barriers that families encountered or you encountered as well so we're looking to improve the process I think that's an important piece I think the department's really trying

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to make options available so I do appreciate that. Thank you, which is an excellent service that the participants in this chat can play us by informing you have challenges.

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You know, and truthfully like new we're trying as hard as we can to make these things work but we are like literally building the plane fly this thing, this year as quickly as we can.

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And so with this was that world is a program that I had done with Sal Khan Khan Academy, we actually started this back in. I think I started my first conversation with them in like last June or July, not this last one but a whole year ago.

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Certainly, what are we going to do, how can we help these kids that are falling behind how can they get ahold of servicing or you know specialized tutoring services, what would you get help teachers who are at their wit's end trying to keep up with everything

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with everything was know. And so, with sound, we created the schoolhouse dot world, and it is basically peer to peer tutoring right where, and you have like one student tutoring another student, you could have an adult we got volunteer adults that are

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are tutoring students. I actually have a video I don't have time to share right now but have a student a 13 year old student tutoring, a 51 year old high school dropout in algebra, and just trying to get as high set.

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And we actually produce the video of that, that has been out in the social media sphere. And what a great opportunity for that student to be able to working with this other adults, you know, and those are people from New Hampshire and Iowa California

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connecting, so it's happening, they're really like all over the place. And so you're able to sign up, anybody is able to sign up for this.

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You know it is free 100% free media guy, you know charitable money paying for it, or what we ventured actually what we do is we do have charitable I mean money paying for it.

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They are continuing to add more, you know, your classes to it when we first launched it we were pretty much limited in terms of some of the high school and some of the high school math stuff we're adding more classes to this all the time.

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And truthfully, this is not a department thing it was just that.

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We were the first ones doing it because I was pushing on your Sal Khan Khan Academy, just say like we've got to get this thing out as soon as possible, if they need it.

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And, but it is really just kind of an open source platform, you know, service and available. And many of you guys are using Khan Academy so your understand and are familiar with, you know, a lot of the quality and I'll kind of get home good Khan Academy,

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And so this is yet another option where you're helping those students. I can tell you if it matters my own daughter. I, you know, took one of these classes my 16 year old, so she took us to tutoring in her with the sap prep through this, and she was quite

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pleased with how it went. It was good, it was interesting to have other students tutoring rate on various aspects of of that. And then so that's that and then I have I do have one or two more quick things I want to share with you so now and then I'm going

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to do questions okay Bonnie so just let me throw these two out there, and two other things that the department has invested in and this is really for the districts, but it's for the parents as well.

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So we have bought statewide licenses to Canvas, as a learning management system.

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And the intent behind that was really to make sure that everybody all of our school systems in our families, everybody had the tools around, you know, providing instruction effectively.

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So learning management system helps you. If you're learning remotely or it helps you if you're learning in person. It puts a course through a certain framework, so that you know you have certain quality standard throughout that process just because this

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is how you build it in a learning management system. And then we just recently added to the canvas platform. And again, what license is not just for all of our schools but for all of our families throughout the state is a open license to discovery education.

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And so discovery education is basically built off of the Discovery Channel content and then they work with about 100 other content developers and have an incredible amount of resources at the fingertips.

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So if your kid is struggling with somebody something you can look at you can search by topic, you can search by grade level you can search by all different kinds of things and so they've got a lot of resources that are easily searchable easy to access.

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And so we encourage you to be reaching out again to your school districts and make sure that you have those available.

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Because you're it's available to your school and many of I think last time I checked, like over half the schools that are already signed up for it. So, the question is, they got to make sure that those then they get those rolled out to you all, because

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oftentimes that part of the problem. Like, I don't have direct contact with families, like pick you guys have direct contact with families, the schools have direct contact with all their families, but I don't control, I can share the messages with the

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schools but they're the ones who decide if they pass them along. So, I can tell you for example like some of our sixth grade future survey we want to get family survey.

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Some of the schools shared that to their families and some Did not you know we can link curiosity, you know, for every kid goes to camp, some of the district share those with their families.

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Some districts did not share those with the family, but I don't have really any, I don't have a direct communication mechanism to do that to really by going back to the sponsor and like hey, you know I get information about this, we're sharing it with

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their school leaders, and hopefully this will be those are then able to share with you.

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So with discovery, education, it needs to go through the school district.

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Correct. Unless you're your home education students and you can comfortably set up as a instance of Canvas for home education families so they would be able to get their Canvas log on and have access to all of the discovery materials as well, or if your

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non public school or the non public schools have access to Canvas as well as the discovery education so again you go to your school leaders that's the best mechanism to access.

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Okay so families can go to their school leaders and ask for access to discovery education or canvas and hopefully that helps me some Misha, because then all of a sudden the school leaders like well I don't know about this let me find out and then they

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call me and I talked about it, you know we send out information. So that just helps encourage them to get signed up. And, you know, it helps get make to make those opportunities more ubiquitous to all of our families.

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Right. And again, part of the campus and part of discovery is not just about, you know, making those tools available but in some respects, I think it's a little bit of eliminating the idea of haves and have nots right so through that discovery, every

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single educator in New Hampshire, every single family in New Hampshire has access to high quality instructional materials case well right so there's no reason why we can't have high quality instructional materials that every single student, every single

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student has high has access to, you know, high quality technology, these are the learning management system that they can have available and so just trying to eliminate again the haves and have nots.

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Everybody should have the tools and again I remember it was really frustrating for some of the families to like for my second grader I logged into Google, you know, classroom for my third grader I was in seesaw or my fifth grader I was in, you know, some

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other websites you know that the parent that the school teacher set up or something like that so just try to help standardize that to make it a lot easier both on the educators, as well as the families who are trying to educate that so imagine if you

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had, if you're a family member, your parent.

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And you only had one place that you're going to login you can see assignments you know what the assignments are you can have links to all the different information you want, and many districts have that through their student information system or other

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tools that they have now we're just making sure that every family has access to that because many districts did not have that capability.

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So I have a few questions.

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Okay, excellent.

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First for the learning pods, is the funding per student in there Can there be less than five students in a pod funding is for students, and I think they can do but they generally go you know affiliate one student in a learning plan I'm looking for that

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upon anymore, so I don't grow it, I don't know what the lower limit is on that, but it is possible if you're a school system and you want to set up a learning public see your principal you here like we actively use a learning plan.

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But I only have like three kids who are, you know, medically fragile and they need some supports relative to that, I'm going to set them up as a learning path, you know, maybe they would bring in some community members to fill out that pod or something

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that, they will participate, that, but we do pay per student, where the learning pods, except for the admin fee is by upon by students. Okay, great, and do the funds, I'm sorry do the pods of dress AP classes for students who want accelerator advanced

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placement courses. Yes, so they don't remember these early days.

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Okay, so, wasn't my question just so you know.

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Yeah, I mean, well I mean it's a good question because we do have some, you know, seventh and eighth graders are pretty smart kids and probably I'll be taking some AP classes but for accelerated learning, right, you offer accelerated learning and do specific

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curriculum have to be used or a student has a disability can a specialized curriculum or modified standards be used. So the curriculum is set but the curriculum is kind of individualized to the students so you can get you know my understanding is that

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it can be the, the learning needs of that student because of the way that it's individualized.

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Okay, great. For the yes scholarships, the question was, that it says it pays for tuition and fees and they wanted to know exactly what is included in fees.

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What does that cover. So that would be so for example if you had a student like let's say you're in a learning path and you said your students don't need some okay right so maybe you have your student enrolled in a learning pod, and, but we're in a non

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school you're going to say like okay so I'm going to enroll my student in a non public school but I want to be able to have. So that would work and trying to think of what it would mean the keys are about services right like maybe you have a you know

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a psycho therapist that your child has worked with or you have a physical therapist that your child is working with.

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So those are what I would consider like, and that was for the yes scholarships the fee.

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Okay.

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And then, just as a clarification, school districts have to provide a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities but the scholarships are intended to allow families to get services beyond appropriate and one question had to do with

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could, a student who is participating in that to get some extra services could their school district say so now we don't need to provide such and such a service because you're already getting it.

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Well no, I mean, theoretically, if you're already getting it.

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Then you're getting it at the level numerator.

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Be right so they would not be able to take that out and we'll be able to say like one liner provided service because you're getting it on the outside it's really up to provide that service.

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Okay, excellent. Yeah, it could be the only thing I can think of it is, it could be that you know the parents supplements that service and the student makes more progress and so they exit that service sooner than they otherwise might have.

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Okay, so that's possible I guess right but that would be good news that means that the kids they accelerated progress and we always like to tell her progress.

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Excellent. So the last two questions have to do with the education freedom accounts. One parents said that they've heard that it's difficult to switch to another district public school and wonder, what is the criteria that would allow a student to go

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to a different school district public school, and two, with the school district and another public another district have to accept their student. There are some standards that have to be followed, or they're, they're not required to accept it we don't

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have open enrollment in New Hampshire, there are many states that have what's referred to as open enrollment, which basically just says, Hey, if you're a public school student, you can go to any public school in any community that you want.

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In many of those open enrollment states. If you choose a school outside of your resident district then you're responsible for the transportation. We're not open enrollment that wasn't built within legislature this year that didn't move forward.

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So, if you're going from one public school to another public school, you would have to, they would have to accept you, they're not required to accept you.

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and they may or may not right like. So most of our public schools across the neighborhood of \$20,000. And I know they may or may not accept you, if you're only bringing your toes your DFA is only \$5,000, they may or may not want your \$5,000.

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But on the flip side of that, if you have a district who perhaps they have a first grade class that has, you know they have capacity maybe we only got 10 students in first grade and there they don't have enough to do a combined if too many to do a combined

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first and second and not enough to do you know one they the school district themselves might say you know they were willing to take another student into our first grade class we have capacity, and we'll take that \$5,000 and be happy to be able to educate

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that student.

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Question is really a conversation that you need to have with a small is a clarification talked about when a parent participates in an education freedom account their child with a disability is no longer entitled to special education but family is taking

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on that responsibility. Is that true even if they are getting services in another public school and another district.

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Yeah, so I believe and this is part of the rules that if they are, we need to another public school they're still entitled The faith.

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Okay, interesting. Okay.

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So, all right so I do, like I said, we have two minutes left. And so a couple of housekeeping pieces, one we will be sending out a feedback survey and in the comments section.

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If you have additional questions we are collecting them.

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And we will get them over to the Department of Ed, and we will be able to send out the answers to that as well as posted on the website next to this chat.

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The other thing is there are a couple of questions that may not have been fully answered in the chat and we will add that to the questions that will go over to the Department of Ed to just make sure those are clarified so if you feel like your question

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wasn't answered. We did our best to summarize, I think we got through a lot of information today so.

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So thank you very much. So I just want to especially Michelle like probably lots of drama club right along, and you did.

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And so there is a question we will be making sure the recording has the transcript available, and we will post it on our website, we're going to share it with the Department of Ed to link it to us as well.

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And we'll also send it out to those of you who attended and really get the information out there to people so you will be able to access it after the fact.

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Again, our goal is to make sure people really understand how to access these programs, and to access the different opportunities that are out there and understand what they may qualify what they don't and to make informed decisions, and in that vein when

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when you get the information about the recording please share it with your colleagues with the other parents that you know so that if they weren't able to participate, they can get the information as well.

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Michelle what might also be useful to find your website you could put links back to those programs that I have on my website so people will find them to you as well.

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Absolutely. And we've been sharing in the chat. The links I want to thank actually one of your staff people who were feeding me the different links and so we will make sure we have those on our website as well to the different programs so that people