

EVIT Update – Q&A with Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson

Q: How will EVIT students continue their career training with campuses being closed?

A: Our faculty and administrators have created a new delivery system of online instruction and alternative learning opportunities to help our students continue their training.

By now, all EVIT students should have been contacted by their EVIT instructor about how they will be continuing their program online. Students who have not been contacted should let me know by emailing me at cwilson@evit.com.

Starting Monday, April 6, EVIT students who have been issued Chromebooks by their high school will have access on those devices to our online EVIT classrooms if their high school or school district allows it. We will begin grading our students on Monday, so it's very important that they are in contact with their teacher.

Q: What about EVIT students who are unable to continue their training?

A: EVIT remains committed to working with all students to earn credit for this quarter but it is imperative that students engage with our faculty and staff. We understand that in some cases life circumstances may limit our students' opportunity, so we need to work together to find a solution. It will be incredibly difficult to find positive solutions if our students do not stay in touch with us.

Q: How are the needs of students with disabilities being met?

A: We are working to provide at-home educational opportunities for all EVIT students. To the extent that EVIT is able to offer those opportunities, our Disability Resource Department will continue working to make a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) available to all students with disabilities. We have created strategies and alternative intervention methods to assure students with special needs receive the educational benefits commensurate with those provided to the general population.

We are also continuing to follow the guidance and recommendations of Gov. Doug Ducey and our government agencies, including the Arizona Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, and the Centers for Disease Control.

If your EVIT student has special needs, please feel free to email Tony Niccum, EVIT Special Education/504 Coordinator, at tniccum@evit.com or phone him at (480) 461-4154 to discuss modifications, accommodations and services EVIT can provide at this time. Even though our campuses are closed and staff are working from home, Mr. Niccum will respond to your email or phone messages.

Q: Will we still be able to have the EVIT Completion Ceremony in May?

A: We have had a number of questions about the EVIT Completion Ceremony currently scheduled in May. We haven't made a final decision yet, but it is looking doubtful that we will be able to host this event at that time. We are still looking at alternative dates and also at other creative solutions if an in-person event remains unviable. We will keep you posted and let you know as soon as we have a final decision about this important event.

This is a stressful time for us all, but we want you to be reassured that the East Valley Institute of Technology is still providing training designed to help our students return next year to complete their

program, to get a job or go on to college. EVIT also has many connections in the community, so if we can be of any assistance to your family at this time, please let us know. We are glad to help.

We also understand that our students are experiencing many losses at this time, including being able to be with friends and enjoy the social bonding of being together at school. So this week, our social media platforms hosted an online Spirit Week for our students and faculty to keep in touch, laugh a little and stay positive. It was a refreshing change of pace, and we will be looking for similar opportunities to lift everyone's spirits in the coming weeks.

It's more important than ever to know that we are all in this together -- and we will all get through this together.