



Dear RI Counselor,

While we are all currently facing our unique set of circumstances one thing is for sure, we are all in this - together.

Today started with snow, followed by virtual schooling, and then the news of Tom Brady's departure from the Patriots. Hands down the most surreal part of my day was virtual school.

Most notable was the void of bells, hallway voices, and pop-in visits. The void of routine; the very thing we know is so important to students and educators. Some of us felt the void of classroom lessons, lunch bunches, college planning meetings, and SAT prep. The void of personalized connections; the part of our work that matters the most. Most find themselves trying to console anxious and sad students and parents through email or virtual meetings. Overwhelmed by new and changing directives from state and local leadership and an abundance of resources. All of this while managing our own fears and anxieties, balancing our own act at home with school-aged children or aging parents and navigating the uncertainty of our district's expectations!

Please know that RISCA is here for you during this uncertain time should you need us.

- Check out our website rischoolcounselor.org for the latest RIDE and ASCA updates and resources
- As you come across great resources feel free to share with your colleagues. Simply copy the link and send it our way via Twitter @RISCATweets, through Facebook at RI School Counselor Association, or through email at tenreiro.lisa@gmail.com.
- Join us this Sunday night (March 22nd) at 8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. for a Google "hangout", using [this link](#). Please mute your mic when you arrive at the hangout. Feel free to turn off your camera if you'd like to avoid being displayed in the hangout (instead your initial will display or a picture if you have one). Once the hangout begins, we will direct participants to click in the dialogue bubble and there we will pose a series of questions and ideas. A hangout may be a great way to share our fears and questions, learn from colleagues, and receive some of our own social and emotional support. This is also a great way to practice using Google Hangouts with students. If you don't know what to do but wish you knew more, click on the link and simply try it out! We are a no judgment organization!
- Reach out and let us know what you need. As we shared earlier we are facing unique circumstances. If you are in need of help, let us know. We have a small but mighty organization filled with the most amazing professionals.

In addition, our upcoming March 31st Spring Meet-Up at New England Tech will now be offered virtually. We will share details on a new date and time when we learn more about school cancellations and work-from-home conditions.

With gratitude for your work, with understanding of your challenges and with much love,
Your RISCA President, Board Members, and Colleagues