



EdOC in Action

CHARIHO HIGH SCHOOL SITE VISIT

Members of the Rhode Island Education Operations Center (EdOC) Outreach Team recently met with Chariho High School administrators and staff to provide support and assessment for the school's busing student drop-off process.

Representatives from the EdOC — including two registered nurses, a representative from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), and a team leader — mobilized at the school's request and were on hand for a 7 a.m. student arrival.

After members of the Outreach Team and school staff observed and assessed the arrival process, which was very efficient, the EdOC team was invited to participate in a full school assessment, which quickly commenced after the bus arrivals.

The Outreach Team worked with school leaders to review cleaning practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) supply and use, isolation, screening, classroom logistics, staffing, high risk areas, and social and emotional well-being. Together, they toured the school and met with teachers, custodians, the school nurse, and others throughout the duration of the team visit.

Not only was this visit a great way to see firsthand how the leaders from the Chariho School District implemented their reopening plans, but it created an opportunity for an open exchange of information sharing, raising questions and concerns in a supportive and resourceful manner, while helping to identify best practices for sharing across the state.

Craig MacKenzie, Chariho High School principal, helped to coordinate the visit.

"We valued the opportunity to get feedback on our systems and protocols from a team that is visiting so many RI Schools. They shared practices from colleagues in other districts and provided us with feedback based on their observations and conversations with our custodians, school counselors, social workers, teachers and students. The team's commitment to supporting schools and students through their site visit was evident in their attentive listening of our concerns and thoughtful questions."

Dennis Mendes is the on-site team leader from the EdOC, a National Guard member, and a 28-year science teacher. *"We were very pleased be invited to Chariho High School to experience their well-run busing system. They have incorporated the guidance well and in a manner that best suits their specific needs. In addition, the opportunity to meet the dedicated staff throughout the school and thoughtfully discuss opportunities and experiences, created a great sense of collaboration and support."*

If you are interested in receiving an outreach visit to your school or district, please call 401-277-1440.