

A Research Topic Proposal

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A Crisis Management Plan within a University Structure

The author has chosen to research and provide a written discourse on the subject matter due to the recent events of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the author's observation schools on all academic levels were scrambling on how to quickly transition the classroom to an all virtual experience. School administrators, parents, and students were put into further distress and turmoil trying to figure out the most effective and efficient way to transfer classroom engagement into virtual engagement. Families who did not have the technology at home for their students to be successful or the education to help facilitate learning were strained with how to ensure their child's educational needs were being met. Another downside for students especially for those who live in low-economic conditions were the meals the student would usually be provided but would no longer have access too now that the school had closed. In many cases these meals would be the only food the student may get for the day.

Universities and colleges struggled trying to implement a virtual platform or expand the one already used to accommodate the additional hundred to thousands of students who would now be in class online. Many schools were not prepared to easily make the transition due to the inadequacy of the instructors and/or due to financial constraints. Many students wrestled with the idea of not have one on one contact with the instructor and peers and many felt the spirit of defeat believing that somehow their educational success had been put on the back burner. There are many universities and colleges unfortunately that will not recover because there was no crisis management plan in place. For example, the University of Alaska prior to the pandemic had already been struggling with declining academic enrollment and adding this current crisis has forced the school's Board of Regents to recently approve massive academic and administrative

cuts but are afraid this still won't be enough. The author can only consider if a crisis management plan had been in place if some of these linked crises could have been avoided.