



REMOTE LEARNING

Q: Are resources available to study/research the effectiveness of the DLI's remote face-to-face instruction compared to on-site face-to-face instruction?

A: We have studied the effectiveness of remote teaching using the same metrics and information available prior to the pandemic. That is student satisfaction through EOCs, on-time graduation rate, graduation rate, and FoT feedback. From the last data pull and analysis, the 332 TRS resident mission is performing equal to or better by those metrics. However, one concern we have is the ability to immerse our students into the American classroom environment. This cultural immersion is hard to capture and portray in a remote-learning only atmosphere. IAAFA recently graduated their in-resident Alpha cycle students and Columbian Army Brig. Gen Erik Rodriguez, who was the guest speaker, reminded students about the value of the relationships they built while attending courses at IAAFA: "Interpersonal relationships matter, interoperability between different forces is generated from a common language and common procedures, but interoperability cannot be effective if there is no personal knowledge, respect or a level of trust." At DLI, you do more than just teach English. You help grow relationships through a common language. Those relationships are better fostered in an in-person environment.

Q: Col Wilson, Thank you for prioritizing people and keeping us safe by allowing us to work remotely. In our section, which we know of, people have had Covid and relatives have been impacted. This is real for us all. Please keep us home until we are safe since we interact with IMS and they are not vaccinated - they are also out and about not adhering to CDC guidelines.

A: Telework has been a necessity during the pandemic to ensure the safety of our workforce. But, as the COVID-19 positivity rate in the local area goes down, as members are able to get vaccinated, and the risk is reduced, we will take a comprehensive look at all telework agreements. In situations where an individual is able to meet the same level of success, and the same level of operational capability as identified in their position description, we may look at keeping those telework agreements in place. Where it's fairly obvious that measures outlined in an individual's performance plan and position description are not able to be accomplished, or accomplished to the same degree through telework, we will look at starting to pull people back into the office at a certain point in the future. It's something we have to talk about because we have a very in-person and tactile mission here. It's important for all of personnel to start thinking about the fact they could be pulled back into the office in the near future. I encourage you to talk to your supervisor, and talk to your chain of command to see what this looks like for you. We will evaluate on a case-by-case basis. The perception that there is going to be long-term perpetuity agreements may happen, but it's not something that's guaranteed.