

I did what I considered an excellent job teaching during the early stages of the pandemic (mid-March through end of June 2020) from home, engaging students in what was called remote teaching / learning. I relied mostly on email exchanges (since I was not a classroom teacher but rather a one-on-one teacher in my school's Study Center). I helped students with grammar exercises, essays, research papers, analyses, interpretations of Shakespeare's plays and a lot more. I received a long litany of notes of appreciation from both students and teachers.

When the time approached for the beginning of the new semester (fall and start of winter, 2020-2021), I applied under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for a special accommodation to continue teaching from home rather than go teach in person as part of my school's hybrid approach, based on my having two of the pre-existing conditions listed by the ADA --- a way of saying that I would be in extremely high risk of dying should I contract the COVID-19 virus at work. It made perfect sense, especially since a significant percentage of our students had opted to stay home 100% of the time and learn online.

My school district decided that the appropriate or special accommodation that they would "offer" me (I had no choice) was that I would be placed on unpaid leave for at least one semester and possibly the whole school year.

The Doctor I refer to is the person who was the Assistant Super-intendent of Secondary Education of my school district.) My sixteen years of service to the school didn't count. I know that it is medical doctors who swear to first do no harm, but harm was done by this administrator, not only to me but also to the neediest students we had. (When I appealed and laid out my case and questioned the reasonability of the move, my appeal was rejected by the district's Superintendent.)

Of course, students continued to seek me out and ask for my assistance throughout my "unpaid leave" and I continued to help them via email exchanges, so, technically, I never did stop teaching, and as I write this, I find myself in my 57<sup>th</sup> year of teaching --- so the Doctor really didn't stop me from teaching, just from being paid for it.