

ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

April 29, 2020

The following are questions asked by directors of schools during this call and the answers provided by the department. For additional guidance and up-to-the-minute supports, please check the TDOE website for more information:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html>.

CARES Act

- Question: As districts fill out the cumulative files at the end of this school year, they are required to put the “number of school days”. In a normal year, this would be 180 days. What is the total number of days they need to be instructed to put in that space on our cumulative files?
 - **RESPONSE:** The cumulative count needs to add up to the total days they were slated to have (generally 180, but could have been more) based on the calendars they submitted. That they code some of those days as “Commissioner Waived” will account for which days were waived due to COVID within that total count.
- Question: Are our traditional home-schoolers also exempt from 180 day requirement?
 - **RESPONSE:** Yes, home-schoolers are treated as typical schools.
- Question: When applying for the IDEA Technology Partnership Grant, should we write plans for immediate needs around COVID-19 or planning for future (2020-2021) needs for distance learning?
 - **RESPONSE:** Districts should first focus on their immediate needs, but also consider what may be needed beyond summer. Much of what districts purchase will be able to support students now, next school year, and even next summer.