

## ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

July 13, 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>.

### BEP funding

- **Question:** Because of panic over COVID, it is likely that many parents will pull their students out of public schools to do home-school. Is there anything in law that will trigger a Hold Harmless for BEP funding for 2021-2022?

- **Response:** There is nothing currently in law that would trigger a BEP hold harmless for the 2021-2022 school year. It is possible that the legislature could take up this up during the 2021 legislative session as they did pass a law to hold BEP funding harmless for the 2020-21 school year (there is a one-year lag in how enrollment affects funding amounts) once school closures went into effect in March.

It is worth noting, that the CLP rule and policy creates a mechanism for districts to continue to take attendance, and thus count students for enrollment and funding purposes, even if being educated in a remote environment. In these instances, families choosing to learn remotely would still count for a district's ultimate BEP funding. However, that would not be true, if a parent removes a student from the district entirely and chooses to home-school their child. It is important for district to continue to communicate these remote options to families so that they know they can remain in the district even if choosing not to return for in-person learning.