



# COVID-19

# Charter School LEA Liaison Call

**June 5, 2020**

Dr. Robert Lundin, Assistant Commissioner  
Judy Spencer, Director of Charter Schools

# Call Participants

## Target Audience

- LEA Senior-Level Liaisons to Charter Schools

## Department Presenters

- Dr. Robert Lundin, Assistant Commissioner of School Models & Programs
- Judy Spencer, Director of Charter Schools

## Other Department Representatives

- Dr. Eve Carney, Chief Districts & Schools Officer
- Chelsea Crawford, Chief of Staff
- Deborah Thompson, Assistant Commissioner of Federal Policy & Oversight
- Charlie Bufalino, Assistant Commissioner of Policy & Legislative Affairs
- Christy Ballard, General Counsel
- Lee Danley, Deputy General Counsel

# Intended Outcomes

- **Recap** certain matters addressed on our last call.
- **Provide** updates relevant to charter schools and their supervising LEAs.
- **Define** systems and resources.
- **Collect** any unanswered questions for future responses.

# Agenda

- CARES Act Updates
- Triennial Assessment Waiver
- Free Learning Opportunities
- Current COVID-19 Informational Resources
- Re-opening of Schools
- TN Teacher Jobs Connection
- Innovative Assessment Supports for 2020-21
- Cadence of Future Communications
- Questions

# CARES Act Updates

## **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund for TN - LEA Allocations (90%): \$233,902,038.60**

- LEA allocations were determined by the relative share of the state's Title I allocation, which is in alignment with the methodology of the state allocation.
- Allocations were shared with districts on April 17.
- Planning, data, budget, assurances, and other information will be required in the application.
- LEAs will have until June 30, 2022 to obligate funds.
- Department will then have 90 days to recoup and reallocate to ensure no reversion of funds.

# CARES Act Updates

The intent of the funding is to:

1. provide relief for existing needs, and
2. plan for future needs.

Allowable uses of these one-time funds are listed below:

- purchasing **education technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity);
- providing **summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs** (including on-line learning);
- planning **for long-term closures**;
- addressing the unique needs of **special populations**;
- providing **mental health services**; and
- conducting **other activities** necessary to maintain operation of services and employing existing staff and coordination activities, including childcare and the needs of principals and school leaders.

# CARES Act Updates

- CARES Act funding applications will be submitted on the LEA level.
  - TDOE will specifically require information from applying LEAs on how funds will be made equitably accessible to charter schools.
  - Webinar on district application is released May 18
  - District application opens in ePlan on May 26 and closes June 15 (tentative)
  - Awards will be made by June 30 (tentative)

# CARES Act Updates

## LEA Application Components

The department will request that LEAs submit information on the following areas:

### Planning

- A detailed and comprehensive Re-Entry and Continuous Learning Plan that addresses re-opening schools, academic and non-academic needs, and plans for school closures moving forward (should those ever happen in the future), including how educational needs as a result of COVID-19 were determined; the extent to which LEAs intend to use funds to promote remote learning; and how LEAs intend to address learning gaps resulting from disruption of educational services.

### Timeline

- Timeline for providing services to students and staff in public and non-public schools

### Data

- Information about academic opportunities for students in their LEAs, by grade band, and how they plan to measure student progress, including how LEAs intend to address learning gaps resulting from disruption of educational services; and ways in which the LEA conducted checks on students.

### Budget and Spending

- Information related to budget constraints, re-allocations, and detailed plans related to how they will expend grant funds.

### Other

- Detail on how equitable services are delivered and how input from charter schools was considered

### Assurances

- A list of assurances from LEAs, aligned to those provided in the federal application.

# CARES Act Updates

## Charter Schools

- Outline the process used to ensure charter schools are receiving CARES Act benefits equal to their traditional public school counterparts.
- What prioritized needs of its charter schools did the LEA identify during the pandemic?
- Describe how the items/use of funds selected above align with the identified needs and how the effectiveness of each activity will be assessed.

# CARES Act Updates

- In ePlan > TDOE Resources > CARES Act/ESSER Fund:
  - [Q&A The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) ACT](#)
  - [Q&A Equitable Services for the CARES Act/ESSER Fund](#)
  - [ESSER Fund Application Guide](#)
  - [Application Overview Webinar](#)
  - [Allowable Uses of Funds](#)

# CARES Act Updates

- Daily WebEx office hours will be scheduled during the application window with times alternating between the morning and afternoon.
  - New information will not be presented during office hours.
  - LEAs are encouraged to attend these virtual sessions to ask questions and glean insights and ideas from other stakeholders.
- LEAs will receive the information about office hours via the *Federal Programs Update* and the *Commissioner's Update for Directors*.

# Triennial Assessment Waiver

- Triennial Assessment Waiver
  - First assessments are due June 30, 2020
  - Nationwide waiver provides for a new deadline of June 30, 2021
  - To accept the new deadline, the School Food Authority/LEA must submit a completed waiver form by June 30, 2020
  - Find the waiver form here: [Triennial Assessment Waiver](#)
  - If an SFA/LEA completes the waiver, the second triennial assessment would be submitted by June 30, 2024

# Free Learning Opportunities

- Summer Learning Series (PBS Partnership Phase 2)
  - High quality programming focusing on early literacy and math
  - Targets grades K-3
  - June 1 – July 31; weekdays from 10 a.m. –12 p.m. CST
  - All PBS stations in Tennessee:
    - WNPT Nashville
    - East Tennessee PBS
    - WCTE Upper Cumberland
    - WKNO Memphis
    - West TN PBS
    - Chattanooga WTCI
- Ready Rosie provides online educational instructional videos
  - Targets ages birth through grade 3
  - Available through September 30

# Current COVID-19 Informational Resources

LEAs should continually monitor the department's dedicated COVID-19 site for updated information: [TDOE Coronavirus Website](#)

This web page now includes the following recently updated resources pertinent to districts and charter schools:

- [Grant Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) (updated 6/3)
- [School Closure Funding Guidance](#) (updated 5/26)
- [Nutrition Program Updates](#) (Updated 5/19)
- [FAQ on Migratory Students](#) and [English Learners](#)(Updated 5/8)
- [School and District Accountability Guidance](#) (Updated 5/8)
- [Triennial Assessment Waiver](#) (Updated 5/7)
- [Special Education Path Forward](#) and [FAQs](#) (Updated 5/7)

# Re-opening of Schools

## Resources Expected from the Department:

- (1) LEA Guide
- (2) School Reopening Toolkits
- (3) Procedures Samples and Videos
- (4) Continuity of Instruction Plans
- (5) LEA Technical Assistance

# Re-opening of Schools

## **LEA Guide**

- Roles and Experiences of Teams and Stakeholders
  - Executive Cabinet
  - Senior District Leadership
  - Team Members
  - School-level Staff
  - Consideration of HR Policies
- Planning
  - General Planning and Data Considerations
  - Phases
  - Best Practice
  - Considerations
  - Calendar and Options
  - Financials
  - Resources for Field
- Communication
  - Stakeholder Groups
  - Task Force
  - Formal
  - Templates
- Phases of Reopening

# Re-opening of Schools

## School Reopening Toolkits:

- Academics
- Childcare
- Communications
- Equitable Access and Opportunity
- Finance
- Governance and Management
- Health and Public Health
- Nutrition
- Plans: Emergency Operations, Pandemic, Post-recovery Evaluation
- Postsecondary Transitions
- Professional Development
- Reopening Framework
- Social Distancing at Schools
- Special Populations
- Staffing
- Technology
- Transportation
- Wellbeing and Mental Health

# Re-opening of Schools

- Procedures Samples and Videos
  - These procedures are only intended to be samples of how districts and schools may think about putting those recommendations into practice.
  - It is the decision of each local district to determine what procedures and precautions they believe are in the best interest of their students, staff, and communities.
- Continuity of Instruction Plans and LEA Technical Assistance
  - Templates
  - Technical Assistance Modules
  - CORE Office supports

# TN Teacher Jobs Connection

- With over 1,200 teaching vacancies across the state of Tennessee, and a pandemic that has limited traditional recruiting methods, TDOE launched this new initiative to support districts in finding and hiring great teachers.
- On a weekly basis, TDOE will send out information collected from interested educators to TASPAs members, who serve as human resources professionals for districts across Tennessee.
- Job-seeking teachers can submit their information to the department online through [Teacher Submission Form](#).
- More information on the TN Teacher Jobs Connection can be found at [TN Teacher Jobs Connection](#).

# Innovative Assessment Supports: 2020-21

- TDOE is providing several optional, free diagnostics and tools for the 2020-21 school year, including:
  - Optional Start of Year Checkpoint for grades 3-8 and EOC in Math and ELA
  - Optional Online Formative Assessment Platform and TCAP Item Bank to be launched in early fall of 2020
  - Optional Full-length “Mock” Interim Assessments that mirror the current TCAP summative assessments to be available by the end of the fall semester of 2020
  - For more information, go to: [Assessment Supports for 2020-21](#)

# Cadence of Future Communications

- Conference calls exclusively for LEA liaisons to charter school campuses will occur on a bi-weekly basis.
- Weekly email updates will be sent to all identified representatives.
- Slide decks from these calls and charter school FAQ documents will be continuously updated and uploaded to the department's COVID-19 web page: [TDOE Coronavirus Website](#).
- 3x weekly superintendent conference calls.
- LEA charter school representatives may direct specific questions to Judy Spencer at [Judy.Spencer@tn.gov](mailto:Judy.Spencer@tn.gov).

# Questions

- What are the most pressing issues you are dealing with?
- How can the department be a resource for you?
- What other inquiries do you have?