



# COVID-19 Charter School LEA Liaison Call

**May 15, 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

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

# Intended Outcomes

- **Identify** updates relevant to charter schools and their supervising LEAs.
- **Define** systems and resources.
- **Collect** any unanswered questions for future responses.

# Agenda

- Current Informational Resources
- CARES Act Updates
- BEP Update
- Updated COVID-19 Guidance
- Reminders
- Cadence of Future Communications
- Questions

# Current 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:

- [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)
- [Federal Funds Guidance](#) (Updated 4/27)
- [Graduation Ceremony Guidance](#) (Updated 4/23)
- SBOE Emergency Rules [FAQs](#) & TDOE Guidance Documents (Updated 4/21)
- Nutrition [FAQs](#) & [Toolkit](#) (Updated 4/17)

# 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

**Prior to the release of the LEA application, leadership is encouraged to:**

- identify areas where you have surplus funding (transportation, operations, PD) and how they could be repurposed towards new expenses (food service, substitute and hourly salaries, technology).
- begin to reach out to non-public schools in their LEA regarding participation.
- thinking about next year and needs.
- complete ePlan User Access Forms for those who will need access to the application when it opens.

*Note: Access will automatically be granted to those who have FY21 CFA access as of April 30.*

# 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:
  - **Equitable Services Packet**
    - [Sample Letter from LEAs to Non-public Schools](#)
    - Intent to Participate Form – [Word](#) or [PDF](#) version
    - Affirmation of Consultation - [Word](#) or [PDF](#) version
  - [Q&A The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) ACT](#)
  - [Q&A Equitable Services for the CARES Act/ESSER Fund](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Education Guidance: Providing Equitable Services to Students and Teachers in Non-Public Schools under the CARES Act Programs](#)

# CARES Act Updates

- In ePlan > TDOE Resources > CARES Act/ESSER Fund:

## TO BE RELEASED IN EPLAN:

- CARES Act: ESSER Funding Application Guide
- Application Overview Webinar and Walkthrough
- Allowable Use of Funds Guide One Pager

# 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*.

# BEP Update

- Reminder: the State BEP payment to districts will not change this year.
- Period 6 will be used twice in the calculation for next year.
- The most recent payment was issued to districts on April 15.
- There is no May BEP payment.
- The next payment to districts is scheduled for June 15 and will represent 75% of the regular payment.
- The balance of FY20 BEP funds will be paid to districts on June 30.
- The May estimates for projected State BEP allocations for next year will be released today.

# Updated COVID-19 Guidance

- Migratory Students and English Learners
  - LEAs must ensure that migratory students and English learners have equal access to any educational opportunities offered to the general student population.
  - LEAs must continue to identify migratory students and English learners when school is not in session.
  - The Home Language Survey/screening may be administered via mail, over the phone, or virtually through email, online surveys, or teleconferencing platforms, so long as the online platforms are FERPA compliant.
  - The migrant education liaison at Conexion Americas will assist LEAs with identification, enrollment and communication to migratory students and English learners.
  - Permissible expenditures of Title III funds for English learners are detailed at [FAQs for English Learners and Immigrant Students](#)

# Updated COVID-19 Guidance

- School and District Accountability
  - No designations, indicator scores or accountability ratings for the 2019-20 school year
  - 2018-19 designations are maintained through the 2020-21 school year
  - No TVAAS scores for districts, schools or teachers for the 2019-20 school year
  - The online School Report Card will continue to display results from the 2018-19 school year
  - *Ready Graduate* indicators for graduates from the previous school year will still be processed
  - Districts do NOT need to submit appeals or waivers for 2019-20 accountability

# Updated COVID-19 Guidance

- 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

# Updated COVID-19 Guidance

## ■ Special Education

- Students with disabilities must be provided with the same educational opportunities as students in the general population
- 3 phases on the path forward:
  1. Ensure access
  2. Mitigate regression
    - Summer learning options
    - Extended school year services
  3. Remediate by providing compensatory services
- Extension of IEP team meeting timelines if:
  1. The LEA has determined that using virtual technology is not a suitable way of conducting the meeting; OR
  2. Necessary information is not available due to health department recommendations limiting access.

# Updated COVID-19 Guidance

- TDOE is working on a special surprise for 2020 graduates that will be revealed next week
- High School Graduation Ceremonies
  - At discretion of local school boards & superintendents
  - Postponement is a possibility
  - Social distancing & other safety practices
  - Numerous ways to honor seniors
  - [Graduation Ceremony Guidance](#)

# Reminders

- IDEA Technology Partnership Grant awards will be announced today
- LEA Charter Authorization Fee Summaries
  - Follow-up questions were sent to districts last week
  - Responses are due no later than July 31
- New charter applications
  - Amendments to denied applications are due 30 days after the sponsor's receipt of documentation specifying the objective reasons for denial.
  - LEA has 60 days from receipt of the amended application to approve or deny it.

# 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?