



Department of  
**Education**

# COVID-19 Charter School & CMO Bi-Weekly Update Call

**June 5, 2020**

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

# Call Participants

## Target Audiences

- Charter School Campus Administrators
- Charter Management Organization Senior Leaders

## 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, Chief of Staff
- Lee Danley, Deputy General Counsel
- Deborah Thompson, Assistant Commissioner of Federal Policy & Oversight

# Intended Outcomes

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

# Agenda

- RISE Awards 2020
- COVID-19 Professional Development Opportunities
- Facilities Funds Grants Processes
- CARES Act Updates
- Free Learning Opportunities
- TN Teacher Jobs Connection
- Evaluation Flexibility Options Survey
- Current COVID-19 Informational Resources
- Re-opening of Schools
- Innovative Assessment Supports
- Cadence of Future Communications
- Questions

# RISE Awards 2020

- Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award honors classified school employees who provide exemplary service.
- Open to K-12 employees who work as a paraprofessional, or in clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, security services, health and student services, technical services, or skilled trades.
- Nominations are due Aug. 3 and must be submitted here: [RISE Award Nominations](#)
- TDOE will select up to two individuals to nominate to the U.S. Department of Education in November.

# COVID-19 Professional Development Opportunities

## TN Principal Professional Learning Series

- Partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Early sessions focus on immediate issues, such as best practices in digital learning, whole child needs, and leading remotely
- Summer sessions will focus on transforming schools in the coming academic year
- Free, optional, and eligible for TASL-credit
- 7 90-minute sessions
- Week of May 4 through June 29
- Recordings will be available
- Sign up through principal study councils in coordination with CORE offices

# COVID-19 Professional Development Opportunities

## TN Teacher Professional Development

- Partnership with Trevecca Nazarene University
- Free training on digital learning and teaching
- Self-paced, 4 modules
- Instruction on designing classes for remote instruction, using technology to enhance learning outcomes, and making use of a variety of learning management systems
- Available starting May 15 through August 1
- Register at: [Registration for Teacher PD](#)

# Facilities Funds Grants Processes

- Phase I Facilities Funds awards were made by direct payment through Edison.
- Any requests for modifications to allocations of awarded Phase II facility grant funds may be submitted in writing to Judy Spencer ([judy.spencer@tn.gov](mailto:judy.spencer@tn.gov)).
- Grantees should input individual line items into ePlan by clicking “Modify” under their “Budget” section.
- Schools must upload the following documents under “Related Documents” in ePlan:
  - Application
  - Assurances
  - Cover Letter
- Ensure that all LEA roles have been assigned. Go here for the [ePlan User Access Form for LEAs](#)

# 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 was released May 18
  - District application opened in ePlan on May 26 and will close June 15
  - Awards will be made by June 30 (tentative)

# 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.

# Free Learning Opportunities

- PBS Partnership Phase 2: Summer Learning Series
  - 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

# 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](#).

# Evaluation Flexibility Options Survey

- This survey identifies how charters choose to operationalize the various components of the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM) teacher and leader evaluation system.
- Feedback from the surveys configures TNCompass for charter schools and determines supports.
- A CMO should complete one survey that covers all of its charter schools.
- Each charter school that is not operated by a CMO should complete its own survey.
- The survey must be completed, electronically signed and submitted by **June 17 at 5 p.m. CT.**
- The survey link is here: [Evaluation Flexibility Options Survey](#)
- A guidance document is here: [Survey Guidance Document](#)
- A webinar is here: [Survey Webinar](#)

# Current COVID-19 Informational Resources

**Charter schools and CMOs 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 charter schools:

- [Grant Supporting Students with Disabilities](#) (updated 6/3)
- [School Closure Funding Guidance](#) (updated 5/26)
- [Nutrition Program Updates](#) (Updated 5/19)
- [School and District Accountability Guidance](#) (Updated 5/8)
- [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

## 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

# 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 Charter Schools & CMOs will occur on a bi-weekly basis.
- Weekly email updates will be sent to all identified representatives.
- Slide decks from the calls and Charter School FAQ documents will be continuously updated and uploaded to the department's COVID-19 web page: [TDOE Coronavirus Website](#)
- Your respective directors of schools are also invited to participate in ongoing superintendent conference calls.
- Charter leaders 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?