



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

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BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL
HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY
EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE
THEY LIVE

WHOLE CHILD

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC
NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH
FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION
AND BE THE TOP STATE TO
BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER
AND LEADER

TN

Department of
Education

Agenda

- Reopening Guidance
- Department News
 - Stafford Act
 - No-Contact Thermometers
 - Tennessee Educator Survey
 - Summer Learning Opportunities
 - ESA Program Update
- Update on ESSER Fund Equitable Services Guidance
- Your Questions
- Reminder of Upcoming Opportunities
- Overall Resources



Objectives

Today, we will:

- Provide Category I nonpublic schools and accrediting agency guidance in light of extended school closures due to COVID-19; and
- Answer questions concerning nonpublic schools.



Disclaimer



The following is guidance provided by the department:

- Student and staff health and safety is the top priority; therefore, it is recommended that all decisions pertaining to this national health emergency be carefully evaluated by the organization's legal counsel and must consider all current CDC guidance.
- Involving your local health department and community leaders is important in making a well-informed decision for your organization.
- It is also important to note that this is a rapidly evolving situation, and guidance may change as events progress.

School Reopening Guidance



LEA Guide

- TDOE released a guide for LEAs on June 5
- Based on health dept. guidance for risk mitigation
- Provides framework for decision-making
- Identifying a school year and day
- Planning – general and data, best practices for all stakeholders, considerations
- 4 different reopening scenarios
- Guide can be found [here](#)



Toolkits

Toolkits on the following will be released on a rolling basis:

- Academics
- Assessing Student Learning
- Childcare
- Communications
- Consolidated Funding Applications
- Counseling
- Access, Opportunity and Remediation
- Finance
- Governance and Management
- Health and Public Health
- Nutrition
- Policy and Legal Considerations
- Postsecondary Transitions
- Procedures and Social Distancing
- Professional Development
- Public Charter and Non-Public Schools
- Safety and Operations: Emergency Operations, Pandemic, Post-recovery Evaluation
- School Improvement
- Special Populations
- Staffing
- Technology
- Transportation
- Wellbeing and Mental Health



Department News



Stafford Act

- Districts can ask for reimbursement of funds spent on COVID-19 response and mitigation that are deemed reasonable and necessary to protect the public.
- Supported through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).
- The period of availability for funds extends back to January 20, 2020.
- Reimbursements cover 75% of expenses incurred, and the remaining 25% may not be covered by other federal funds, including CARES Act grants.
- TEMA can assist in determining whether the FEMA is likely to approve a proposed reimbursement request.
- School districts may file through their county emergency management agency (EMA) or request to set up an account to apply directly for reimbursements.
- Fact sheet is found [here](#)





No-Contact Thermometers

- TEMA will be providing assistance to school districts in purchasing no-contact thermometers for all schools.
- Ratio of one thermometer per 40 students
- Each district's School Safety Coordinator will contact the local emergency manager and provide the total amount requested for the district, a delivery address, and contact information.
- Questions can be sent to Brenna.Morse@tn.gov



TN Educator Survey

- This week, the Tennessee Education Research Alliance (TERA) at Vanderbilt University released the brief on the COVID-19 Educator Survey, found [here](#)
- More than 25,000 Tennessee educators took the survey
- Survey findings will be released this summer



Summer STE(A)M Resource Hub

- This week, the TDOE and TN STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) released the Summer STE(A)M Resource Hub
- Three weekly home challenges in June and July to guide students and families in exploring STEM careers.
- Ideal for grades 3-12
- Available now
- Access [here](#)



Summer PBS Opportunities

- TDOE continues to partner with local PBS stations
- Will continue to air education content this summer
- From 10:00 a.m. - noon



ESA Program Update

- The Tennessee Supreme Court declined to hear the case.
- Highly unlikely that the ESA program will be implemented for this school year.
- ESAs will not be discussed during this legislative session.
- Appellate Court will hear the case on Aug. 5



CARES Act: ESSER Fund Equitable Services Overview





LEA Application Timeline

- April 13** • CARES Act surveys close; data team compiles analysis of survey comments
- April 15** • Superintendent call: share general information as well as forthcoming resources
- April 17** • FPO special edition update for federal programs directors
- May 22** • Tennessee's ESSER Fund application approved by ED
- May 26** • Application opens in ePlan (tentative)
- June 15** • Application closes (tentative)
- June 30** • Applications reviewed & awarded (tentative)



Equitable Services Overview

- A local educational agency (LEA) that receives funds under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) (CARES Act § 18003) must provide equitable services to students and teachers in nonpublic schools in the same manner as provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) § 1117 (CARES Act § 18005(a)).



Upcoming Release of Information from ED

U.S. Department of Education (ED) will be issuing a rule on the equitable services topic in the next few weeks and inviting public comments in the Federal Register

The department will share the public comment invitation with all stakeholders

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their opinions with ED



Questions From the Field



Q: We have a kindergarten program at our NAEYC accredited nonpublic preschool. Our school ages range from K1-SK. We have read that our K1-K4 Program is considered essential. It is our understanding that the SK piece is not. Could the SK class be considered essential with the idea we are teamed together under one school?

A: When we were first dealing with the pandemic and determinations were made about the essential businesses, it was said that if your preschool was essential to parents who are working on the front lines, then you could remain open. Now that we're looking at next school year and the considerations for reopening, it is important to remember that the decision is ultimately yours if you open your senior kindergarten program — as long as you consult with your local health department for safety guidance and your school's governing board.



Q: I've been listening in on the superintendents meeting with the commissioner on most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 1:00. The TDOE has a toolkit with reopening recommendations for public schools that have been sent via email to district superintendents and that is much of what the conversation consists of at this time. Will we receive those toolkits or are they a nonfactor for us?

A: While the reopening toolkits are made for districts, nonpublic schools are absolutely welcome and encouraged to use them to the extent that you need. The toolkits will be available on the department's COVID-19 webpage in the Reopening Guidance section found [here](#).



Will the state be offering Title IX training specific to K-12 schools that would be available to nonpublic schools participating in PPP/ESSER?

TDOE is happy to provide Title IX trainings to any schools who are in need, whether public or private. We are also hoping to make some of these trainings available online for schools to watch at their convenience. Contact Rachel Suppé, Assistant General Counsel for Civil Rights and Special Populations at Rachel.E.Suppe@tn.gov to setup a training.



More Resources and Reminders



Resources:

- [Tennessee Department of Education COVID-19 Guidance & Resources](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
- [NDTAC Guidance](#)
- [National Council for Behavioral Health](#)
- [Special Education Related FAQ](#)
- [School Closure Toolkit for Districts: Special Populations](#)
- [Guidance on School and District Accountability](#)
- [PBS Teaching Tennessee](#)
- [ReadyRosie](#)
- [STEAM Resources for At-Home Learning](#)
- [SBE Covid-19 Emergency Rules](#)
- [SBE Amended Rules for Nonpublic Schools](#)



Teacher Professional Development Opportunity

- TDOE, in partnership with Trevecca University
- **Free training on remote learning and teaching to all Tennessee teachers.**
- Self-paced, four modules
- Learn the ins and outs of designing classes for remote instruction, use technology to enhance learning outcomes, make use of a variety of learning management systems and more.
- Available now through August 1.
- Click [here](#) to learn more.



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.
- TDOE will select up to two individuals to nominate to the U.S. Department of Education in November.





TN Teacher Jobs Connection

- TDOE [launched the TN Teacher Jobs Connection](#) this week.
- With over 1,200 teaching vacancies across the state of Tennessee, and a pandemic that has limited traditional recruiting methods, the department launched this new initiative to support districts in finding and hiring great teachers.
- On a weekly basis, the department 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 [this form](#). More information on the TN Teacher Jobs Connection can be found [here](#).



Neglected and Delinquent Program Facilities Lunch and Learn

- The Non-Traditional Educational Programs (NEP) team will be hosting a lunch and learn on June 17th at 11:00am CST and 12:00pm CST for Category I, special purpose schools.
- Join us for an opportunity to collaborate and partner with other colleagues who have continued to provide educational services during this challenging time.
- Contact Daniel.Froemel@tn.gov for more information.



Thank you, private school leaders,
for continuing to care for and
educate Tennessee's students.

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