



# BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

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May 15, 2020



**BEST** FOR  
**ALL**

We will set all students on a path to success.

## ACADEMICS

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

## WHOLE CHILD

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

## EDUCATORS

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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

- 2020 RISE Award Nominations
- Tennessee STEM Designations
- Teacher Professional Development Opportunity
- ESA Program Update
- Updates on the ESSER Fund
- Resources and Supports for Equitable Services and CARES Act
- Your Questions
- 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.

# Department News



# 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 STEM School Designations

- Governor Lee's Future Workforce Initiative will award \$10,000 to each of the 22 schools that received the [Tennessee STEM School Designation](#) for 2020.
- Future Workforce Initiative to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training in K-12 schools.
- \$10,000 grant intended to sustain and expand these schools' STEM and/or STEAM programs.
- Private schools are eligible.





# 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 starting today through August 1.
- Click [here](#) to learn more.



# ESA Program Update

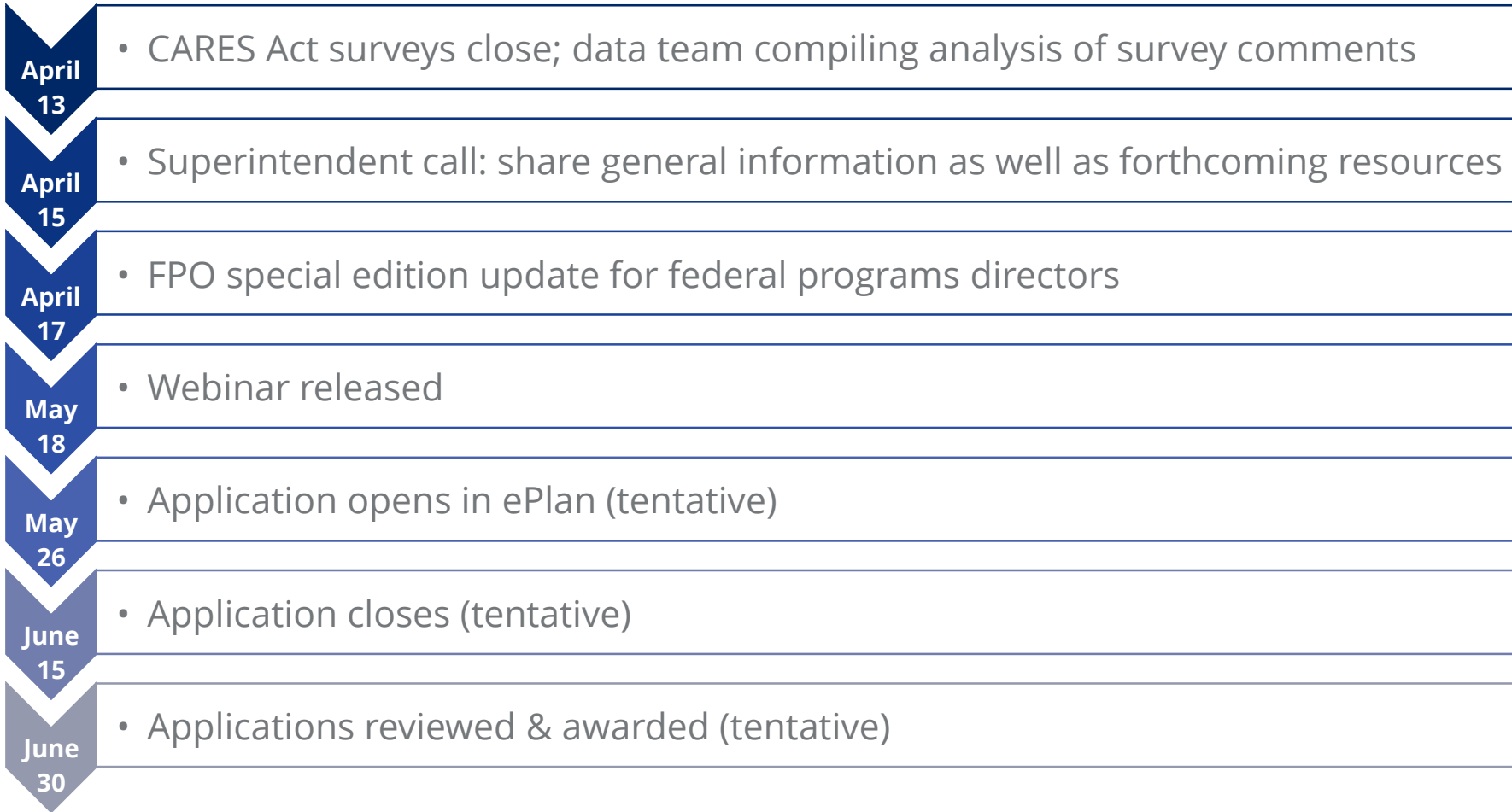
- The Education Savings Account Program was ruled unconstitutional on May 4 due to the Home Rule provision amendment. Work on processing the applications halted at that point. Any applications sitting in the pipeline remained there.
- On May 5, the state filed a motion asking the judge to put her order on hold so that the program rollout could continue during an appeal.
- On May 6, the state Attorney General filed an application with the Tennessee Court of Appeals to reverse the judge's ruling as well as her order for the state to stop the ESA program.
- On May 7, the judge ruled the state could not accept any applications after the deadline, which was May 7, or while the ruling on May 4 is being appealed.



# Updates on the ESSER Fund



# LEA Application Timeline



**NOTE:** Additional communications will be sent weekly to superintendents and, when necessary, to federal programs directors to provide 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.

# Equitable Services

- Describe the consultation process between the LEA and nonpublic/private schools in regard to the CARES Act proportionate share. Include the important dates, modes of communication, and information provided to nonpublic/private school representatives. (Upload supporting documents in *Related Documents* section.)
- Summarize the needs that nonpublic school(s) identified faced as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Describe how the items/use of funds selected above align with the identified needs and how the effectiveness of each activity will be assessed.



# Resources and Supports



# Recently Released Resources

- 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](#)





# Resources Soon to be Released

- In ePlan > TDOE Resources > CARES Act/ESSER Fund:
  - CARES Act: ESSER Funding Application Guide
  - Application Overview Webinar and Walkthrough
  - Allowable Use of Funds Guide One Pager



# Questions From the Field



**To whom should nonpublic schools look for guidance as they make plans for reopening: the TDOE, their local health departments, or their mayors? If these sources give conflicting information, to whom should a school defer? Do we have a sense when guidelines will be out for reopening?**

Nonpublic schools should look to the TDOE and their Local Education Agency (LEA) for guidance on re-opening. LEAs should be in communication with their local health department for safety guidance. If their local health department or mayor gives conflicting information, then nonpublic schools should adhere to what their local health department advises. The guidelines for re-opening are being developed now.



**I've heard (though not read anywhere to confirm) that Governor Lee offered immunity from any future lawsuits pertaining to the coronavirus to hospitals and medical institutions with an exception for the case of blatant neglect in maintaining proper protocols. Is that true? Could this be extended to schools, particularly non-publics? What would be the process?**

At this time, Governor Lee has not issued an executive order addressing additional legal protection for medical institutions.



# Any updates on guidelines for graduation ceremonies?

There haven't been any updates since our last call on May 1, but the guidance document, which was updated on April 23, can be found [here](#).

As a reminder, decisions around whether or not to host graduation ceremonies will remain at the discretion of local school boards and superintendents. We encourage local districts to consult their county or regional health departments on questions related to health and safety in hosting graduation ceremonies.



# Since summer day camps fall under the preschool division of the DOE, are summer day camps also considered an essential service?

Summer day camps can be considered an essential service if keeping it open will provide a needed service, such as by prioritizing care for families most in need, including people required to work on COVID-19 response.



# Do local health departments have any jurisdiction in the opening of summer day camps?

Counties that maintain a locally governed health department (Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, and Sullivan counties) are expressly authorized to maintain local laws, orders, rules, or regulations that may contradict specific executive order(s).



# Are there any guidelines for schools with summer school/camp programs? Where can we find these guidelines?

There is an updated Early Childhood Education toolkit [here](#).





**A. Most “experts” even Dr. Fauci are predicting we will likely be in “good shape” to open schools on time for the 2020-2021 academic year. Does the DOE concur?**  
**B. Are there any guidelines for schools regarding return to campus in August/Sept? Where will we be able to access these guidelines when they are available?**

Commissioner Schwinn is working closely with the Commissioner of Health and the Governor’s Office on the plans for the re-opening of schools for 2020-21. The plan will address lesson plans for getting students caught up in their new grade, as well as social distancing. The information will be shared on the superintendent calls and on the department’s webpage as soon as we have it. It is likely that such information may be recommendatory in nature, as was the case with the Governor’s recommendation to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Here is a link to an interview with Commissioner Schwinn yesterday on a local station concerning plans for the fall: <https://www.wkrn.com/news/newsmaker-state-planning-for-all/>



**Although there are a plethora of unknowns and initiatives that will need to be put in place for returning to school, are there perhaps some norms across the board that ALL schools should have in place upon returning in August?**

The plans for re-opening schools are currently being developed, including guidance on academics, but one norm is that schools should follow the safety guidance of their closest health department. More details will come as the department shifts focus from this school year to next. It is likely that such guidance will be recommendatory in nature, as was the case with Governor Lee's recommendation to close schools for the 2019-2020 school year.



# Where can I find a list of STEM schools? What does it take to be considered a STEM school?

The STEM schools can be found at <https://www.tsin.org/current-designated-stem-schools>. To be considered a STEM school, you must follow a series of steps found on the above website, including completing a self-assessment, developing a STEM Leadership Team, having an initial phone interview, submitting an application to the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN), and a site visit. For more information about the STEM school designation process or implementing STEM and/or STEAM education, contact [Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov](mailto:Deborah.Knoll@tn.gov)



My school is an NAEYC accredited preschool and kindergarten. Since March, we have been teaching our students through distance learning using the SeeSaw app as a means to share our videos and learning experiences. My question is in regards to the report card we will be mailing to our SK parents. What is the protocol designed for recording attendance? And is there any written piece we need to add to the comment section about COVID-19 and there being no recordable grades for the fourth quarter? |

| You may leave your attendance records blank during unexpected closures. Students should not be coded as absent during these days. We haven't been advised of a written statement to add to the comment section of report cards. You can consult with your LEA on this.

SBOE FAQ:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/covid19/Emergency\\_Rules\\_FAQ.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/covid19/Emergency_Rules_FAQ.pdf)

SBOE emergency rules (includes some guidance on grading):

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/2020-sbe-meetings/april-9%2c-2020-sbe-conference-call-meeting/4-9-20%20III%20A%20Emergency%20Rules%20Cover%20Sheet.pdf>



# What are the procedures for submitting the revised school calendars?

Category I schools can send their revised calendars to [private.schools@tn.gov](mailto:private.schools@tn.gov) by May 15 (today). You can revise your 200-day accountability calendar that you already turn in to the TDOE. Category II – IV schools should send their revised calendars to their accrediting agencies.



**We have reached out to all of our schools' LEAs to let them know that we want to participate in the Ed Stabilization Funds and Governor's Relief Fund. Would you advise that we do anything else at this time?**

If nonpublic school officials indicate that they intend to participate in equitable services for their students and teachers, the LEA must consult with those officials during the design and development of the LEA's programs and before the LEA makes any decision that affects the opportunity of nonpublic school students and teachers to participate in the activities funded under the ESSER Fund.



**I am concerned that the CARES Act intent to participate form from my LEA seemed to indicate only schools with Title I students will receive funds. The funds will be based on the amount of those students enrolled. Is this correct?**

LEAs should use enrollment data in nonpublic schools whose students and teachers will participate under the ESSER Fund compared to enrollment in public schools in the LEA to determine the proportional share.

Under the ESSER Fund, services are available for all students—public and nonpublic—without regard to poverty, low achievement, or residence in a participating Title I public school attendance area.



# How Does an LEA Determine the Proportionate Share?

- An LEA uses **enrollment data** in **nonpublic schools** whose students and teachers will participate under the CARES Act programs compared to enrollment in **public schools** in the LEA to determine the **proportional share**.

	Public	Private	Total
Enrollment	1,350	150	1,500
Proportion	90%	10%	100%
Proportional Share ESSER Fund	\$810,000	\$90,000	\$900,000
Proportional Share GEER Fund	\$90,000	\$10,000	\$100,000



# Resources



# 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](#)



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

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