



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

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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

- Overview
- State Board of Education Meeting
- Governor's Recommendations
- CARES Act News
- New Learning Resources
- Your Questions
- 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.

Overview

The department has established a website to specifically address educational concerns related to COVID-19.

The website can be found [here](#) or by navigating to:
<https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html>.



State Board of Education Emergency Meeting Held on April 9, 2020



Graduation Requirements

- For students scheduled to graduate from high school in the 2019-20 school year, approved private schools required to meet the same minimum requirements for high school graduation as Tennessee public schools shall be subject to the amended requirements outlined in [State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-03-11](#).
- Reduced credits from 22 to 20 (at least 4 math, 4 ELA, 3 science, 2 social studies, and any combination of 7 other credit hours).
- Grade point average will be calculated based on students' grades as of March 20.
 - Districts can provide opportunities to improve those grades.
 - Districts can still use locally-approved grading scale.
- ACT and SAT will not be required for seniors to graduate this year.
- SBE amended rule [here](#).



Grading Considerations (especially for students taking EPSOs)

- Grade point average will be calculated based on students' grades as of March 20.
- Districts can provide opportunities to improve those grades.
- Districts can still use locally-approved grading scale.
- ACT and SAT will not be required for 11th graders.



TCAP Suspension

- Commissioner Schwinn provided a blanket waiver for the 180 days of instruction and TCAPs.
- An approved Category I or II private school shall not be required to administer Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (“TCAP”) tests or a nationally standardized achievement test if such tests were scheduled to occur in the spring semester of the 2019-20 school year. SBE amended rule [here](#).



Attendance

Districts can take attendance for remote learning days, but this will only be for gauging participation.

Cannot be used to take punitive actions.



Level of Effectiveness/Evaluation Scores for Teachers



There will be no final educator evaluation scores calculated this year.

Provisions on Licensure

(both prospective teachers and those whose licenses are expiring in the fall)

Educators who are newly graduated and those with licenses about to expire will be given another year to complete assessments and other requirements.

The SBE rule for educator licensure, including the emergency amendment is [here](#).



Special Education

Schools will have up to 90 days to complete a student's initial evaluation after the parental consent is given.



Governor's Recommendations



Gov. Lee's Announcements

- Strong recommendation to close schools for the rest of the school year
 - Remains a local decision
- Encouraging districts to continue remote learning.
- The Governor also announced the creation of the COVID-19 Child Wellbeing Task Force, which Commissioner Schwinn will be convening to support our district leaders and their communities in caring for students, particularly those who are vulnerable or most at risk. Details about the Task Force will be announced soon.



CARES Act and Nonpublic Schools



Education Stabilization Fund: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

State Allocation: \$259,891,154

State Reservation: 10%

Allocations to Districts: 90%

The intent of the funding is to 1) provide relief for existing needs, and 2) plan for future needs.

A summary of allowable uses of these one-time funds are listed below*:
–**purchasing education technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity);
–providing **summer learning** and supplemental **after school** 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.

*Including those uses of funds authorized under ESEA, CTE, IDEA, Adult Ed and McKinney-Vento; and it applies Title I equitable services provisions for students and teachers in nonpublics.



Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund

- Congress set aside approximately \$3 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF).
- The CARES Act also provides governors with great flexibility in how they spend money allocated under the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief fund.
- The USDOE will award these grants to States (governor's offices) based on a formula stipulated in the legislation. (1) 60% on the basis of the State's relative population of individuals aged 5 through 24. (2) 40% on the basis of the State's relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
- Governors can use funds to "provide support to any other institution of higher education, local educational agency, or education related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students."
- Nonpublic K-12 schools would qualify as an "education related entity."

Source: USDOE's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education



How will nonpublic schools receive CARES Act funds?

Section 18005 of [H.R. 748](#) deals specifically with assistance to nonpublic schools.

Essentially, when local education agencies receive funds from either the Education Stabilization Act or the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund, they must provide private school students and teachers with equitable services [in the same manner they provide Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds]. The funds provided remain under "public control." Nonpublic schools must consult with LEAs to determine allocation and receipt of funds.



Other ways nonpublics are eligible to receive CARES Act funds

- As 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, nonpublic schools are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- The PPP is a loan from the Small Business Administration that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis.
- The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll).
- PPP loans are first-come, first-served.

Source: www.sba.gov



New Learning Resources



STEAM Resources for At-Home Learning

The Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) released a [STE\(A\)M Resource Hub](#) for educators and families.

The STE(A)M Resource Hub includes three weekly challenges around design activities, critical thinking, and career exploration that can all be done in the home. The challenges are ideal for students grades 3-12, but younger students can also participate with parental assistance. The STE(A)M Resource Hub also includes a portal for parents or educators to ask questions and receive additional support.



PBS Teaching Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Education has partnered with the state's six PBS stations to provide 1st-6th grade students standards-aligned instructional lessons on ELA and Math. 7th and 8th grade lessons will be available on the [department's YouTube page](#).



ReadyRosie

[ReadyRosie](#) is an online education tool providing at-home instructional videos parents can do with their children. Through a partnership between the department and the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation, Tennessee families have access to these resources for free through September 1.



Your Questions



If a school has remained in session during the COVID-19 crisis using virtual classrooms do they still need to record those days as commissioner waived/instructional?

Based on the current guidance and waivers, there is not a need to code virtual learning days differently at this time. All days in which students are not attending school should be coded as "Commissioner Waived." The coding of these days should not preclude any nonpublic school from starting any online instructional program.



If a school used days to ramp up preparation for virtual instruction, can they be deducted from the 13 stockpile days?



Yes, those preparation days can be deducted from the stockpile days, as long as all of your stockpile days are used before you start coding your calendar with Commissioner Waived days.

Most of our students are still working on school work at home. What specific documentation do schools need to ensure students will receive credit for instruction they received while at home? Do we have any guidelines yet?

As private schools, you don't need to submit specific documentation to the TDOE on any instruction credit for remote learning. The Commissioner's blanket waiver of the 180-day instruction requirement covers nonpublic schools. It is up to you whether you give your students grades or credit for remote learning.



What are the procedures for submitting the revised school calendars?

Category I schools can send their revised calendars to private.schools@tn.gov by May 15. 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.



Are faith-based nonpublic schools eligible for CARES Act funding?

The CARES Act states:

All loans guaranteed by the SBA pursuant to the CARES Act will be made consistent with constitutional, statutory, and regulatory protections for religious liberty, including the First Amendment to the Constitution, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000bb-1 and bb-3, and SBA regulation at 13 C.F.R. 113.3-1h, which provides:

“Nothing in [SBA nondiscrimination regulations] shall apply to a religious corporation, association, educational institution or society with respect to the membership or the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution or society of its religious activities” ([Small Business Administration, 13 CFR Part 120, Interim Final Rule p. 27](#)).



Is there a way that the Governor or TDOE can issue a statement that private schools can still function? Continuity of learning is occurring.

The Governor has strongly urged schools to close for the year, but has also encouraged districts and schools to continue to meet the academic needs of their students. Schools are highly encouraged to continue providing educational services



If the Governor's Stay-at-Home order is lifted after April 30, can nonpublic schools operate?

The decision to operate, whether online, or in person, remains in the hands of LEAs and heads of school. The expectation is that these bodies will make the best decisions to serve their students and faculty.



Can the TDOE provide guidance for graduation ceremonies?

At this time, there is no guidance on graduation ceremonies from the department. While it's likely beyond the department's purview, it is expected that the CDC and the Tennessee Department of Health will issue guidance on large gatherings as Tennessee begins to ease back to normal. Such guidance will likely be instructive in determining local strategies for graduation ceremonies.



What will be the guidelines for reopening schools and when will we find out?

The department is working on guidance and toolkits to support districts and schools in reopening for the coming school year. These resources will be distributed via the department's COVID-19 webpage once complete.



Can nonpublic schools leverage CARES Act funds for infrastructure?

The department is continuing to work with the federal government on appropriate usage of CARES Act funding. This is a developing item, and we will update you once we receive more information from our operations team.



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, nonpublic school
leaders, for continuing to care for
and educate Tennessee's students.**

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