

ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

April 22, 2020

The following are questions asked by directors of schools during this call and the answers provided by the department. For additional guidance and up-to-the-minute supports, please check the TDOE website for more information:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html>.

Grading and Graduation

- Question: What are the department recommendations for graduation and proms?
 - **RESPONSE:** Graduation ceremonies, prom, and decisions about other similar events must be made locally and will certainly look different from community to community. Plans must also be made in compliance with any local safety orders, which vary. The department recommends that school districts consult with school board attorneys, the school board, community leaders, and the local health department in making these decisions. These groups can assist in best determining the needs of the community and how to make these decisions in the best interest of safety. That being said, the department has released some guidance and ideas around high school graduation that may be helpful to you: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/Graduation%20Ceremony%20Guidance.pdf>

Staffing

- Question: Do employees continue to accrue sick leave days when a system is closed?
 - **RESPONSE:** We encourage districts to work with their board attorneys to determine any human resources implications during system closures to ensure consistency with all legal requirements and local policies.