

ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

April 27, 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>.

Staffing

- Question: I have educators who were counting on their LOE for 19-20 to provide their PDPs. What should I tell them?
 - **RESPONSE:** Educators who were awarded PDPs on the basis of their LOE in 2018-19 will be awarded the same PDPs for 2019-20.
- Question: What will next year's observation pacing be based on?
 - **RESPONSE:** Observation pacing for 2020-21 will be determined by the educator's 2018-19 data.
- Question: How should I code evaluations in TNCompass?
 - **RESPONSE:** All evaluation records must be labeled COVID – 19 PYE by June 1, 2020. Instructions for coding 2019-20 evaluations in TNCompass are forthcoming.
- Question: What is the latest with pre-k and k portfolios?
 - **RESPONSE:** Educators will not be required to complete portfolio submissions, portfolios will not be peer reviewed, and portfolio scores will not be generated. Information on alternatives to portfolios will be shared in this week's CUFD. We will be requesting additional alternatives and scaling recommendations to include in the flexibility survey that will be released in mid-May.
- Question: Where is registration located for principal trainings?
 - **RESPONSE:** Sign-up information will be provided the week of May 4 through principal study councils in coordination with CORE offices.

Waivers

- Question: Where can I find TDOE waivers created for tenure and non-renewals? What else should I use it for?
 - **RESPONSE:** TDOE main coronavirus webpage that is regularly updated with new resources: <https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html> . On that page, you will find a new section, State Board of Education Emergency Rule Resources, under the main header, Closure Guidance and FAQ's. These documents provide more information about the State Board emergency rules, including department guidance specific to teacher licensure, teacher evaluation, special education, strategic

- compensation plans, and Tennessee Academy for School Leaders credit accrual and approval, and a link to a new district waiver application.
- For your convenience, here is the link to the COVID-19 LEA Waiver Application: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/COVID-19%20LEA%20Waiver%20Application.pdf> . This form includes pre-filled waivers regarding tenure, non-renewal, and school board member training. In addition, the form includes space to include other waivers as needed.
 - Question: What do I do if my district had a differentiated pay plan or alternative salary schedule requiring the use of 2019-20 teacher performance data?
 - **RESPONSE:** You must submit the 2019-20 Differentiated Pay Plan Revision form for TDOE review by 5 p.m. on May 22, 2020. All LEAs will be contacted no later than June 15, 2020 with feedback and/or approval for the proposed revisions to the 2019-20 plan. The form can be found in our Strategic Compensation guidance document on our COVID-19 site: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/Strategic%20Compensation_COVID-19_Guidance_4.21.20_final.pdf

Nutrition

- Question: When will guidance be coming out about reimbursement dealing with school meals and/or the loss of revenue associated with serving students meals?
 - **RESPONSE:** We encourage districts to work with partners across their counties to ensure students in need have meal service options through the summer. District participation to provide nutrition services through the summer is a local decision.

IDEA Technology Partnership Grant

- Question: Are charter management organizations eligible for this IDEA Technology Partnership Grant?
 - **RESPONSE:** Only LEAs are eligible to apply for these grants. While CMOs are not eligible to apply separately, they are certainly encouraged to work with districts to share identified student needs ensuring those considerations are taken into account when applying.
- Question: Where can I find the IDEA Technology Partnership grant online?
 - **RESPONSE:** The newly announced IDEA Technology Partnership Grant can be located on our website, using the following link: <https://www.tn.gov/education/news/2020/4/27/tdoe-announces--1-million-idea-technology-partnership-grant-.html>