

ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

March 30, 2020

The following are questions asked by directors of schools during this call and the point-in-time answers provided by the department. Katie Houghtlin, Chief of Whole Child Supports, and Theresa Nicholls, Assistant Commissioner for Special Populations, made a detailed presentation related to supporting students with disabilities during this time. That information will be uploaded as separate resources on the Department's website. 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>.

Assessment and Accountability

- Will the Department continue to provide updates related to assessment to the district testing coordinators? What is the best way for other district leaders to remain informed?
 - **RESPONSE:** The department will be sending bi-weekly updates on assessments to the District Testing Coordinators through the existing email listserv, as well as providing a monthly DTC webinar. Additionally, updates will be referenced in the Commissioner's Update for Directors and posted on the assessment LiveBinders site.

Communications

- Where should districts look for details about submitting lessons for the PBS televised instruction?
 - **RESPONSE:** The Department is continuing to formulate plans surrounding the PBS televised instruction. For questions or suggestions please contact Chelsea.Crawford@tn.gov.

IT

- What guidance is available related to challenges with internet and device access?
 - **RESPONSE:** Guidance around challenges related to internet and device access can be found in the [IT Resources: COVID-19 Guidance](#) on the Department's website. This document provides information on wireless options, device options, and IT supports for learning. There is also a [School Closure Toolkit for IT and Distance Learning](#) which provides additional guidance around devices and connectivity.

Legal requirements or needs

- Should school calendars reflect closure for each day until students return?

- **RESPONSE:** Please see the TDOE's guidance on how to document school closures: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/School_Closure_Guidance_EIS%20Coding_3.24.20.pdf
- When should districts expect to hear more about the possibility of continued school closure beyond April 24?
 - **RESPONSE:** As the Governor issues new guidance to school districts, the Department will update guidance documents and toolkits to reflect the new information and school districts will receive notice of the updates. Here is a link to Governor Lee's Executive Order 22 issued on March 30, 2020: <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee22.pdf>
- Should districts close school playgrounds to the public?
 - **RESPONSE:** This is a local decision and one that can be different from community to community. The Department recommends school districts consult with school board attorneys, the school board, community leaders and, the local health department before making the decision. These groups can assist districts in best determining the needs of the community.