



**Alabama State Department of Education
2019-2020 Local Education Agency
Academic Continuity Plan**

March 27, 2020

COMPLETION OF 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic's implications on Alabama's public schools, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has surveyed Local Education Agencies (LEA) superintendents, as well as researched other states' plans of assistance to help districts complete the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

ALSDE SUPPORT PRIORITIES & TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

The ALSDE is committed to providing essential technical guidance and support mechanisms to assist LEAs in completing this unprecedented school year by allowing flexibility—with statewide parameters—and for as much as practical, proceed with graduation and promotion procedures by June 5, 2020.

The ALSDE has identified minimum parameters for LEAs to consider when completing the LEA Academic Continuity Plan:

- ✓ Core Academic Areas;
- ✓ Delivery Platform Options (Section A);
- ✓ Grades K-8 Critical Core Academic Standards (Section B – Option I);
- ✓ Grades 9–11 Critical Core and Required Courses (Section D – II); and
- ✓ Limited Scope of Delivery.
 - Is the activity essential?
 - Can the activity be done remotely?
 - If there is no other choice, then can the activity be done safely considering keeping individuals separated by distance, not congregating in close proximity, and the health of participants (students, educators, and others) is protected? Consulting with the local health department and other local agencies is advisable.

The ALSDE has coordinated multiple statewide efforts to assist LEAs with differentiated supports & resources. Additional information can be accessed in a newly developed “Emergency End-of-Year School Closure” technical guidance manual, which will be finalized and posted March 27, 2020.

- ✓ *ALSDE Academic & Technical Guidance for Emergency End-of-Year School Closures Manual*
- ✓ Alabama Education Remote Learning Site (Powered by EBSCO)
- ✓ Alabama Public Television (APT)
- ✓ Alabama Public Library Service
- ✓ ALSDE Technical Assistance Team to assist LEAs with development of the plan
- ✓ *ALSDE Academic & Technical Guidance for Opening 2020-2021 School Year Following Emergency End-of-Year Closure Manual* (will include summer timelines, planning guidance to identify academic gaps, and critical considerations following the emergency school closure conditions)

LEA DISTRICT ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Complete LEA Academic Continuity Plan while considering individual needs and capacity.
 - Section A: Identify and provide multiple instructional delivery options including digital, virtual, delivery of educational packets, etc. that include a blended or hybrid approach.
 - Section B: Identify content provider(s) that meets the needs of your district based on current resources, as well as state resources.
- ✓ Utilize a variety of communication methods for classrooms to connect, provide feedback, ask questions, etc. including but not limited to the following: Class Dojo; Remind Me App; Google Hangout; Learning Management System (Canvas, Blackboard, Etc.); or a “Parent Hotline” that is manned by a rotation schedule of teachers/educators to provide access for parents and students to ask questions related to assignments.
- ✓ Submit completed LEA plan to leaplans@alsde.edu no later than April 3, 2020.
- ✓ Complete Section F, including optional request for ALSDE Technical Assistance to finalize the plan.

NAME OF LEA: _____

SECTION A: DELIVERY OPTIONS (Select all that apply)

- Option I:** Distance/Virtual/e-Learning/Remote Method(s)
- Option II:** Packets/Assignments (portfolio, project-based, etc.)
- Option III:** Blended (combination of Options I & II)
- Option IV:** Other _____

SECTION B: INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT OPTIONS (Select all that apply)

_____ **Option I:** ALSDE Resources (See manual for details)

- ACCESS Distance Learning Online Platform and/or Franchise Model
- Scantron Achievement Series ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies Assessments (Quick Pick and Normal Tests)
- [ALSDE K-8 Critical Standards Chart](#)
- K12 Inc./Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)/Etc.
- Alabama Education Remote Learning Site (Instruction Only)

_____ **Option II:** Individual LEA Hosted/Vendor

A. Provider Name: _____ (Ex: Accellus, Edgenuity, Edmentum, i-Ready, etc.)

B. Minimum Criteria Assurances (Contact vendors to obtain information):

Accreditation (select the option that applies): Cognia (Formerly AdvancED), MEASC, NWAC, WASC, VCPE, Other: _____

Organizational Stability: Effective and stable organizational and management structure

Instruction/Content: Content and activities align to Alabama standards; accurate and appropriate for each grade-level; evidence of at least 2 subject matter experts review and validation for accuracy; scientifically/research-based; provides differentiation of content, delivery of content, and assessment options to allow for multiple pathways for standards/course mastery

Student Performance & Assessments: Objectives or assessments used to measure student progress towards mastery of the standards

Data Reporting: Standards mastery; student participation in coursework; progress monitoring towards completion of the course; and alignment to state and federal data management requirements

Special Populations: Students with special needs, including students with disabilities, ELs, free/reduced lunch, etc. are not excluded from participating in courses; LEA must comply with all state and federal regulations specific to students with disabilities and collaborate with the vendor/provider to ensure appropriate access

Technical Support: Consistently available on a timely basis for students, parents, and districts

_____ **Option III:** Combination of Options I & II OR Other (Provide brief description)

SECTION C: FINAL COURSE GRADE OPTIONS

- **Option I:** “Credit by Examination” or “Credit by Advancement” for students for Grades 6 (if grade 6 is in a middle school setting)/7 – Grade 12 with End-of-Year/End-of-Course Assessment **or** Assignment to measure standards mastery
- **Option II:** Third nine-week grades as final grades/completion for the year
- **Option III:** Average first, second, & third nine-week grades with fourth nine-week assignments (digital, packets, blended, etc.) grade for End-of-Year Grade
- **Option IV:** End-of-Course Assessment grade averaged with first, second, and third nine-week report card grades for End-of-Year Final Grade
- **Option V:** Pass/Fail (Any K-8 course except for courses taken for a Carnegie Unit)
- **Option VI:** Other _____

SECTION D: LIMITED COURSE SCOPE DELIVERY GUIDANCE

I. Seniors (Class of 2020)

- ✓ **Seniors who are on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine weeks reporting period** will be considered “as meeting the graduation requirements” for the state of Alabama.
- ✓ Districts may still implement local policies for honor graduates and class rank and should make local decisions regarding end-of-year participation for current high school seniors regarding graduation.
- ✓ Seniors who were not on track **must** be given the opportunity for credit recovery immediately, rather than waiting until summer programs.
- ✓ Students enrolled in courses for weighted credit, such as AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, etc. should still receive weighted credit regardless of the ability of a student to take an AP/IB/or other assessment.
- ✓ Alabama Essentials Pathway work hour requirements shall be waived.
- ✓ Districts should continue to find methods to support seniors' next steps, such as assisting with FAFSA, scholarship applications, applications for post-secondary opportunities, etc.
- ✓ Processes still pending but will **NOT** impact graduation status:
 - Credentialing & Other Career Technical Related Certifications Needed for Careers, and
 - Dual Enrollment Course Completion – Adhere to all Post-Secondary and Institutions of Higher Learning requirements and guidance to complete 2019-2020 school year.

II. Grades 9 – 11 (Class of 2021, 2022, & 2023) Critical Courses for Completion

- ✓ English 9, English 10, and English 11, & other ALSDE approved ELA credit-eligible courses
- ✓ Algebra I (Algebra I-A and Algebra I-B), Geometry, Algebraic Connections, Algebra II, & other ALSDE approved mathematics credit-eligible courses
- ✓ Biology, Physical Science, & other ALSDE approved science credit-eligible courses

- ✓ World History, US History I, US History II, & other ALSDE approved social studies credit-eligible courses
- ✓ Other Graduation Requirements: Career Preparedness; Health Education; LIFE PE
- ✓ Arts Education/Career and Technical Education/World Languages courses

III. **Grades K – 8**

- ✓ Identification of [ALSDE K-8 Critical Standards Chart](#)

SECTION E. OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL ASSURANCES

SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

It is clear the USDOE does not want schools in Alabama or elsewhere to consider the provision of services to students with disabilities under the IDEA as a barrier or a reason not to offer educational services to any of their students through distance instruction or otherwise.

- In compliance with COVID-19 guidance, the following assurances have been discussed and are included in planning efforts for students with disabilities, including students with 504 plans.
 - ✓ Make **every effort** to provide services for all students with disabilities, including students with 504 plans, and **maintain appropriate documentation** to support all efforts;
 - ✓ Assure that students with disabilities will not be excluded from participating in courses;
 - ✓ Comply with all state and federal regulations;
 - ✓ Ensure educators and administrators collaborate and utilize creative options to meet the individual needs of the students; and
 - ✓ Consider the impact of the LEA's grading option selected in Section C as it relates to IEP review and development for each student. The most recent USDOE guidance can be found [here](#), and additional instructional support resources can be found in the *Academic & Technical Guidance for Emergency End-of-Year School Closures Manual*.

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- As LEAs focus on supporting English Language Learners, it is essential to work collaboratively with staff and other agencies to plan appropriately for the following:
 - ✓ Provide effective two-way communication with families in a language that they understand.
 - ✓ Tailor instruction and assessments to students' English Language proficiency needs in all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing).

SECTION F: LEA CERTIFICATION OF ASSURANCES

Superintendent's Signature: _____

Superintendent's Name Printed: _____

Date: _____

☐ Other LEA-Related Legal Considerations or Obstacles that Impact Conditions of Academic Continuity Plan

✓ If yes, please provide details _____

☐ Request for ALSDE Technical Assistance Team assistance for LEA Academic Continuity Plan

✓ District Support _____

✓ Elementary _____

✓ Secondary _____

✓ Other _____

SECTION G: ALSDE ACCEPTANCE

Date Received: _____

State Superintendent Acceptance: _____