

April 8, 2020

Superintendents,

On March 30, we sent to you **ALSDE Academic And Technical Guidance** manual (Item #25 on the website). Attached is an Appendix A that goes along with that document. This document includes a consolidation of some information that you already have, but it also includes some new information. Please review this updated information and also share it with your Central Office section coordinators and anyone else who would need it. Next week, we will send another addendum, labeled Appendix B. Now that we have moved into a new phase of the COVID-19 response, we are going to try to send just one consolidated communication per week in this Appendix format.

Other information:

PowerSchool

Earlier this week you received a correspondence from PowerSchool. I was not copied and only learned of this correspondence the following day. Nevertheless, we have had very good correspondence and conversations with PowerSchool over the past two days. Due to the complexities raised during this public health crisis as well as the need for our local systems to focus their technology and academic staffs on the transition to distance learning, we are delaying implementation. We are still in negotiation over several issues, including whether some additional systems might be able to join the pilot school systems in 2020-21, etc. We will get information to you and your technology directors as quickly as possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)

There is no ALSDE mandate around the use of PPEs. However, we know that most of you are utilizing PPEs, in particular masks and gloves, as much as possible. We have been searching for a suppliers for these items, but thus far to no avail. There are now some good videos and patterns from CDC and the Surgeon General about how to make masks. We will be pushing these out on social media. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. We are looking for gloves. I have also acquired a pallet of hand sanitizer, but it will not be here for a couple of weeks.

SEAL Task Force

The task force will continue to meet weekly to monitor issues and suggest solutions. We have added two new subcommittees: Special Education and Mental Health. We know that these are major issues, so we are beginning to focus on these efforts as much as possible.

I know you are busy, so I am keeping it short. *I am both honored and humbled to be an educator during these times and associated with so many extraordinary educators!*

Best Regards,

Eric G. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education