

May 15, 2020

Superintendents,

Today, we do not have an Appendix. I did, however, want to update a few items for you.

Graduations

I know that planning for graduation has been very challenging and that many of you have had to amend your plans multiple times. Most of the state's graduation ceremonies are now set (some are completed). If you have questions about how graduation planning, Terry Roller is glad to assist you.

ETF Budget

As you probably know, Gov. Kay Ivey has added Executive Amendments to the General Fund budget, but not the Education Trust Fund budget. Neither budget has been signed as of today. The Legislature will return on Monday. I expect that we will have a signed budget by Monday evening. After the budget is signed into law, we will have distribution sheets ready to send to you and your CSFO's. We will discuss these distributions in the WebEx mentioned below.

Reopening Schools

We appreciate the guidance the SEAL Task Force provided as we transitioned to distance learning, after closing schools in March, for the remainder of the school year. The unprecedented work of the SEAL Task Force provided a template for academic continuity plans that was not only highly effective in our state but also shared in other states.

Because of the proactive work of the SEAL Task Force, we are very excited to announce Alabama was selected to be a part of a national consortium of six states which will develop a national model for the roadmap to return to school this fall. Through this program with Opportunity Labs, my vision is for every K12 school in the state of Alabama to have a comprehensive, actionable plan for return to school.

Opportunity Labs, along the SEAL Task Force, will begin discussions next week focusing on the reopening of schools this fall. Together, Opportunity Labs and the SEAL Task Force, will collaborate and create a framework which includes both educational and public health considerations. I assure you we are working diligently and understand the importance of providing this model to you in the coming weeks so you can finalize local plans for reopening schools. My goals by June 19 are:

- Establish role clarity so superintendents, school leaders and educators understand their specific roles and responsibilities in executing a safe, equitable, and effective return to school
- Build an actionable framework to ensure superintendents and school leaders have evidence-based tools that can inform their local return to school planning and implementation.
- Ensure students, families, and educators feel informed, confident, and considered in the return to school process.

Athletics and Other Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

We have had several discussions with the AHSAA and coaches around the state to develop a strong foundation for a plan for reopening school athletics including workouts, conditioning, practices and tryouts. I have a discussion schedule earlier next week with the Music Educators Association as well. The next public health order is expected to be issued on or before May 22. We will provide guidance

and a plan for reopening summer activities, including but limited to athletics and band, once the order is issued.

Superintendent WebEx

We are planning a Superintendents WebEx for next week. The proposed discussion topics include:

- Cares Act LEA Application
 - Process
 - Timelines
- Recordkeeping for the Report Card
 - Graduation Rate Data
 - College and Career Readiness Information
- Literacy Act Updates and Implementation
- PowerSchool Update
 - Schoology
 - Professional Development Strategies
- Assessment Update
- Compliance Monitoring Updates
- Most recent Public Health Order and implications for summer planning

An invitation for the call will be sent by mid-week. We expect to hold the WebEx on Friday, May 22. This could change based on the release of the next Public Health Order.

Eric S. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education