

May 21, 2020

Superintendents,

This afternoon, Governor Kay Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris issued an updated Public Health Order effective **May 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM**. Please note that two sections are especially relevant to our operations.

Section 13 reopens school campuses effective **June 1, 2020**. There are limitations, and ALSDE recommends additional restrictions which are attached to the order and are also included in this email.

Section 10 relates to Athletics. Please note that this is a general provision and not specific to the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). We are working closely with AHSAA to develop additional, specialized guidance for member schools, including all K-12 public schools. AHSAA sanctioned athletics and all school-sponsored extracurricular and co-curricular activities (e.g. band, cheer) remain closed until at least June 1, when school campuses technically re-open. For school-sponsored activities, we will utilize only static groups under the duration of this order; for example, schools may hold camps for their own students but not interscholastic camps.

However, park-and-rec leagues, travel-ball teams, little league teams, and others who utilize your facilities may wish to begin practices (**May 22**) and competitions (**June 15**) subject to conditions in the new order. While I understand that utilization of your fields and facilities remains a local decision, I would caution you to review and scrutinize your agreements, in consultation with your facilities staff and attorney. For instance, you may want to make sure that any group utilizing your field and facilities is accepting responsibility for cleaning and sanitization, etc. For example, if a league is practicing in your gym on a Saturday and your teams are utilizing the same facility on Monday morning, has it been properly cleaned and sanitized in between uses? The same considerations would apply to churches and other groups meeting in your facilities. Since campuses do not re-open until June 1, you may wish to delay the outside use of facilities until that date. Some of you have inquired about keeping your campuses closed to outside groups even after June 1. That remains a local decision subject your local board of education policy.

Supportive Guidance for School-Sponsored Activities beginning June 1, 2020

As I have mentioned, we are implementing a phased approach for reopening schools. Phase three, which begins on **June 1, 2020**, allows for limited campus access for rising grades 7-12 for summer learning opportunities. Additionally, it allows modified school-sponsored extracurricular and co-curricular activities within applicable social distancing and sanitation rules.

I have attached two documents:

1. Checklist and Guidance for School-Sponsored Activities which provides a checklist and outlines the phases for reopening
2. P-12 Supportive Guidance, Phase 3, which details each item enumerated in the checklist

Phase four begins on July 6 and grants additional access for students of all ages with continued social distancing and sanitation rules applied. If changes are needed due to subsequent public health orders, we will issue additional guidance.

Roadmap to Reopening Schools this Fall

The SEAL Task Force resumed meetings on Tuesday of this week. During the meeting, Opportunity Labs outlined the expectations for the Task Force, provided guiding principles for return to school, and an overview of the partnership and working groups. SEAL Task Force committees will now work with

Opportunity labs to develop a plan for the specific subject matter for each committee. The roadmap will be completed and distributed on June 19.

Socially Distant Graduations and End-of-Year ceremonies

As I stated last week, I know planning graduations has been extremely challenging this year. Numerous schools successfully held socially distant ceremonies this week. We have received a few calls from concerned parents about ceremonies where the social distancing guidelines were not fully utilized. As graduations continue this week and in the coming weeks, I want to remind you to observe the social distancing guidelines to protect the students, their families, and school staff.

Superintendent WebEx

Our Superintendents WebEx is tomorrow, **Friday, May 22 at 1:30**. The discussion topics include:

- Opening Campuses
 - School-Sponsored Summer Activities
- 2020-21 School Year Planning
 - Calendar considerations
- Virtual RFP
- Cares Act LEA Application
 - Process
 - Timelines
 - Private Schools
- Literacy Act Updates and Implementation
- Recordkeeping for the Report Card
 - Graduation Rate Data
 - College and Career Readiness Information
- PowerSchool Update
 - Schoology
 - Professional Development Strategies
- Assessment Update
- Compliance Monitoring Updates

As always, thank you for your service and diligence,

Eric S. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education

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