

July 15, 2020

Superintendents:

We all agree the health and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is paramount. In accordance with the public health order issued today which is effective at 5 p.m. on July 16 and expires July 31, "...each person shall wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or hers nostrils and mouth at all times when within six feet of a person from another household in any of the following places: an indoor space open to the general public, a vehicle operated by a transportation service, or an outdoor public space where 10 or more people are gathered." The facial-covering requirement does not apply to persons who are six years of age or younger or any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a facial covering.

This order is applicable to all summer activities that utilize public indoor spaces on P-12 campuses, transportation vehicles including buses, and any outdoor public space where 10 or more are gathered. To review the Public Health Order in its entirety and review a list of other possible exceptions, please visit the [ADPH website](#).

LEA Reopening Plans

I hope the recommendations provided in the [Roadmap](#) and webinars have been helpful as you develop your local reopening plans. Our staff is here to assist you with any questions you may have as it relates to reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. We realize your plan will be a living document and will continue to change as the scenarios and recommendations surrounding COVID-19 evolve. When you complete your plan, we request that you submit a copy of your plan to Dr. Elisabeth Davis at edavis@alsde.edu.

Joint statement from AAP, AFT, NEA, and AASA

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), National Education Association (NEA) and The School Superintendents Association (AASA), urge a safe return to school this fall and together issued [a joint statement on July 10 on the safe return of students, teachers, and staff to schools](#).

Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year nominees have been narrowed to four. Please join me in congratulating these educators:

Elementary:

- **Andrew Fletcher Jackson** - *Eden Elementary School, Pell City School System, District Six Elementary Teacher of the Year*
- **Kathryn Knorr** - *Ogletree Elementary School, Auburn City School System, District Two Elementary Teacher of the Year*

Secondary:

- **David Dai** - *Alma Bryant High School, Mobile County School System, District One Secondary Teacher of the Year*
- **Michael Sinnott** - *Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills City School System, District Three Secondary Teacher of the Year*

As always, thank you for all you do.

Eric S. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education

Twitter: @AlabamaAchieves #AlabamaAchieves

Facebook: AlabamaDepartmentofEducation