August 3, 2020

Superintendents:

August is here! Whether your reopening your school system for traditional on-campus instruction or utilizing a blended or remote option, our staff is here to help you navigate through this process.

Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students Vouchers
On Friday, July 31, Governor Kay Ivey announced $100 million in CARES Act funding has been allocated for a public-private partnership to increase access to internet for K-12 students attending school in the fall who may need internet service for distance learning. The program, called Alabama Broadband Connectivity (ABC) for Students, will provide home internet access vouchers for families of students currently eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, or other income criteria. The vouchers will help cover equipment and service costs for high-speed internet service from the fall through Dec. 31, 2020. Providers will contract with the state through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to provide the service using existing lines and technologies. Families with children who receive free or reduced school lunch will be notified via a mailed letter in August with the program expected to run August through Dec. 30, 2020, in accordance with CARES Act guidelines. ADECA will administer the program and a website to assist Alabamians with questions as the program nears its launch can be found **here**.

ADPH Toolkit Webinar
ADPH will release their Back-to-School Toolkit in a webinar on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, from 1-3 p.m. The first 30 minutes is expected to be targeted to superintendents as an overview and the remainder of the session will be targeted to ADPH staff working with K-12 schools, lead nurses, principals, and other school level leaders. Attached is the information from ADPH about the upcoming webinar. Below are the various options for viewing the webinar:

- To receive complete technical information you must register at **www.alabamapublichealth.gov/alphtn**
- *Facebook Live* - Watch on the main Alabama Public Health page or the ALPHTN page at **https://www.facebook.com/alphtn**
- *Webcast* - Watch with Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox or VLC player. Test your computer with the "test connection link" at **www.alabamapublichealth.gov/alphtn**
- *Audio* - To listen by phone, call 1-888-557-8511. Enter access code 972-1530 #. Press # again to listen to the conference.
- *Satellite* - Live satellite conference on C band (analog).
- *On Demand* - Available 2-3 business days after the live broadcast from the On Demand page of the ADPH website.

Remote Learning Professional Development
We continue to hear concerns regarding how to teach in a remote learning environment, as well as how to use Schoology and SchoolsPLP. The following resources have been developed by ALSDE staff and can assist LEAs with both of these issues.
- ✓ **Remote Learning PD for Educators** - 2-hour self-paced micro-course developed by Cristin Dillard (Instructional Services); Click on the links below to access the training modules, resources, and agenda.
    - **Remote Learning Professional Development (Novice Level) Agenda**
    - **Remote Learning Professional Development (Novice Level) Resources Folder**
- ✓ **Digital Learning Repository** (Live Binder developed by Sue Ellen Gilliland in Educational Technology)
    - **https://www.livebinders.com/b/2684268**
    - Help guides and videos for teachers, administrators, and parents

- Information related to the digital curriculum, SchoolsPLP
- New resources will be added on a regular basis
✓ **Downloading Content from ALSDE Schoology Platform** – Updated to include directions for **SchoolsPLP & ACCESS Franchise Model**
  - For additional questions, contact **virtuallearning@alsde.edu**
✓ **Schoology & SchoolsPLP Recorded Webinars**
  - ALSDE has a page on our website with **various links for Power School and SchoolsPLP training**

As always, thank you for all you do.

Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education