

June 5, 2020

Superintendents,

We are still finalizing our Back to School Roadmap, coordinating closely with the Alabama Department of Public Health on the release of the final document. The subcommittees have all completed their reports, and I intend to share an embargoed draft with superintendents on Monday to work through the document. If necessary, additional changes can be made during the week. We hope to release the document publicly by the end of next week, but we will not get ahead of ADPH and their guidance. In our correspondence of June 5, 2020, we noted that the original target date for the final draft of the Roadmap was June 19, 2020, to be shared the following week. However, since that time we have decided to embargo the draft for superintendents to see it before it is finalized. The new target for final draft is June 26, 2020 – but, again, we will coordinate the release with ADPH. Superintendents at the SSA Conference will be provided an embargoed draft on paper only as we work through the draft in a socially distant manner. We will trust and expect all those in attendance to respect the embargo. An electronic version will be shared with all superintendents at the public release.

Other News:

Early Math and Reading Assessment Funds

ALSDE Accounting has finalized checks to send to LEAs. The checks are payable to the systems since we cannot issue checks to the individual schools. Please let your CSFOs know the “check is in the mail”! A remittance spreadsheet will also be provided with the funding allocation for each of the LEA’s elementary schools. Remember that each LEA must reach out to the vendors to contract with the vendors for implementing the assessments beginning this fall.

Alabama Literacy Act Implementation Guide

The final Phase I version will be ready to share at SSA, followed by a formal release to LEAs by the end of June.

Schoology Rollout Update

The Welcome Survey was sent to PowerSchool Implementation Leads identified by each LEAs last year. The surveys began going out Wednesday and will be sent to all LEAs by end of day today (Friday). Once that short survey is completed, Schoology will send the one to two-hour self-paced overview course to whomever was identified in the survey. Upon completion of that, Schoology can start building your individual LEA “environment” in Schoology, as well as can send the invitation for two of your employees to enroll in the Master Instruction six-hour PD the week of July 6-10, 2020.

Alabama Virtual Updates

The opening of RFPs went well and a large team of technical curriculum specialist have reviewed them and whittled down the list. Tests to load content into Schoology have gone well. We hope to identify the vendor by next week.

Teacher of the Year

Beginning June 15, we will feature videos submitted by the 16 state finalists for Teacher of the Year. We looked forward to sharing these inspirational videos on our social media channels.

As always, thank you for all you are doing,

Eric S. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education

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