June 5, 2020

Superintendents,

Summer is here and most of you have opened your schools to school-sponsored summer activities. A checklist was provided as supportive guidance in May, but if you have questions or need additional information, we are always here to help.

Roadmap to Reopening Schools this Fall
Thank you for taking the time to complete the SEAL Task Force survey that was distributed last week.   We will use your feedback as the roadmap to reopening schools continues to evolve and will be completed June 19.

ALSDE is working closely with Dr. Harris at ADPH to determine guidelines, percentages, and thresholds for **1)** *traditional, 2) blended, and 3) virtual teaching and learning delivery frameworks*. Detailed information will be provided in the roadmap. Like other LEAs, Huntsville City Schools has developed the attached infographic to illustrate their framework.

We will continue to meet with our SEAL Task Force subcommittees in conjunction with Opportunity Labs over the next two weeks -- our next steps include:
- Completion of each framework in the Alabama Roadmap to Reopening;
- Essential components, guidance, and considerations for each learning framework; and
- Resources and professional development to assist with frameworks.

Alabama Virtual Updates
The virtual framework delivery, pending the opening of the ALSDE RFP 2020-04 on Monday, June 8, 2020, is to provide all LEAs with course content that meets the Alabama Courses of Study Standards for as many of the K-12 courses as possible.
- This content will be loaded in the State-wide incidence of PowerSchool's Schoology.
- Each LEA/School will then be able to choose the content it desires and pull it into its incidence of Schoology or the LMS it has available. PD for this process will be provided.
- The content would be available to the LEA/School at no cost.
- The LEA/School will assign teachers to work with their students as they teach them the content face-to-face (traditional), fully on-line (virtual), or a blended environment.
- Your students will remain enrolled in your schools.
- Professional Development (PD) will be provided for teachers in the use of on-line content and the navigation of Schoology.
- The ACCESS Virtual Learning Program will continue just as it has in the past, offering rigorous content taught by Alabama Certified teachers for grades 7 – 12. Registration is now open for the 2020-2021 school term.

While the SEAL Task Force finalizes the roadmap, the following timeline may help LEAs:
- ALSDE RFP Closes – June 5, 2020;
- ALSDE RFP Opening and Scoring – Week of June 8 – 12, 2020;
- Alabama's Roadmap to Successful Reopening for 2020-2021 School Year – June 19, 2020 (will be shared at SSA); and

- ALSDE Negotiations with Vendor and Contract Development to Submit to Contract Review – By June 21, 2020.
- LEAs Planning Considerations could include:
  - Survey parents to determine estimates of students who may not come back to "brick and mortar" building in August
  - Begin identifying teachers who desire/enjoy teaching virtually (either blended or full virtual) and teachers who may want this type of alternative to teach from home based on accommodations, vulnerability, etc.
  - Decide how you want to offer virtual courses (full virtual, blended, hybrid, etc.) and consider various scheduling options
  - Plan PD for Schoology, Virtual Online Content, Virtual Learning Environments, etc.
  - Work with school leadership teams to analyze survey data and determine what scheduling options may be possible
  - Use Alabama Roadmap to assist with planning
  - Inventory devices to determine if additional devices will be needed and what funding options are available (Federal, CARES Act, State Supplemental Appropriations, etc.)
  - Inventory availability of internet and bandwidth to determine what options are available for students (hotspots, libraries, discounted internet packages, etc.)

ALSDE Schoology Updates - Implementation Rollout Timeline
- *June 5, 2020*   ALSDE Kickoff Overview
- *Week of June 8 – 12, 2020* District/LEA Technical Lead will receive "Welcome Survey" ASAP
  - Identify Schoology Administrator
  - Schoology Administrator must take "Learn Together Course" (A 2-hour self-paced course)
- *Week of July 6 – 10, 2020* LEA Remote Regional Master Instructor Sessions provided by Schoology (see attached for more information)
  - Six-hour training – divided into two separate 3-hour sessions
  - Each LEA can select at least 2 attendees
- *After July 10, 2020* LEAs will work with Schoology Team to "Go Live" for districtwide Schoology Environment access

Updates to Hire ARI Regional Specialists and Literacy Leadership Specialists Updates
- Friday, June 4 - ARI state staff began contacting candidates this morning to offer them the positions;
- Upon receipt of contact - Candidates were told to talk with their principals and superintendents (following LEA procedures) to notify them and then to contact the ARI state staff member to let them know they have spoken with district leadership;
- Upon receipt of contact but no later than June 10/11 - ARI state staff will follow-up with a phone call to the superintendent as soon as the candidate contacts ARI staff member (timeline should be no later than next week – mid-week);
- ARI state staff will follow up with LEA CSFO to gather salary surveys and finalize the MOU for the "employee on loan" process;
- July 1 - Regional literacy specialists and literacy leadership specialists preliminary start date; and
- Reminder that these employees are on loan and do not resign from your LEA.

Teacher of the Year

This week we announced the 16 state finalists for Teacher of the Year. In addition to distributing a press release, we have shared the finalists' names and photos on our social media channels. Finalists are also submitting short videos describing why teaching is important to them. We will feature these videos on our social media channels beginning June 15.

Thank you for all that you are doing and I am looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

Schoology for Master Instructors

Course Description:

Schoology for Master Instructors is our most comprehensive offering covering functionality and pedagogical aspects of Schoology and serves as a prerequisite for many other Schoology courses. This is a train - the - trainer style course and is offered so instructors, instructional support personnel, curriculum developers and organizational leaders can build expertise with many facets of Schoology - Courses, Groups, Resources and communication tools. Participants in this hands-on course will experience a journey through the lens of an instructor learning the platform for the first time.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Develop a Schoology course inclusive of both interactive and informational materials
- Use Course Materials for collaboration, data collection and student feedback
- Configure and use the grading tools provided by Schoology
- Manage Groups and organize Resources
- Support the use of Schoology within their organization

For Alabama each LEA be allowed at least 2 lead team members who will be responsible for learning Schoology and instructing their teachers on the use and best practices. Each round of Schoology for Master Instructors will be delivered in 2 - 3 hour sessions, not delivered in the same day. Each session will be capped at 20 attendees to allow for more in-depth instruction. In addition to this 6 hour course we will circle back with a 2 hour follow-up session with each group after the start of the school year.

There will be 15 rounds of Schoology for Master Instructors delivered to accommodate the number of LEAs. The number of sessions being offered could be modified by ALSDE.

Enhancing Your Schoology Experience

Schoology offers several courses to support the use of Schoology within an organization. If you are interested in exploring other courses please contact your Schoology Client Success Manager or Professional Development Specialist for more information.

Schoology for Master Instructors

Client: Alabama - 2 Leads per LEA
Date: July 2020
Time: Delivered in 2 - 3 Hour sessions
Instructor: Schoology Instructor

Agenda

WELCOME TO SCHOOLOGY

- Introductions
- What is Schoology
- Schoology and Your SIS

NAVIGATING AND COMMUNICATING

- The Schoology Layout
- Your Profile
- Communication Tools
- Courses vs. Groups vs. Resources
- Resource App

WORKING WITH COURSES

- Course Overview
- Student Experience
- What Are Materials?
- Organizing Materials with Folders
- Informational Items
  - Files & Links
  - Pages
- Interactive and Graded Items
  - Discussions
  - Assignments
  - Assessments

GRADING AND GRADEBOOK MANAGEMENT

- Gradebook Setup
- Scoring Student Work

GROUPS AND RESOURCES

- OVERVIEW

SUPPORTING SCHOOLOGY ADOPTION

- Goal Setting
- Skills Checklist
- Session Evaluation

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Fall 2020 Huntsville City Schools
Learning Frameworks

Traditional

- Traditional learning environment
- Face-to-face instruction
- Daily physical attendance
- No current surge/ low number of new cases for COVID-19

Blended

- Face-to-face and online learning environment
- Students/classrooms transition from traditional learning to online learning environment
- Increasing number of daily cases or concern for potential surge in COVID-19 (minimal to moderate surge)

Virtual

- Non-traditional instruction
- Courses delivered virtually
- High rates of daily cases/ active surge   (moderate to substantial surge)
- Option offered to ALL students beginning this Fall (K-12)