

Superintendents,

As directed by the Governor, beginning at the start of school on April 6, 2020, all K-12 public schools shall implement a plan to complete the 2019-2020 school year using alternate methods of instruction as established by the State Superintendent of Education. Local school districts shall make staffing decisions and determinations related to access to school buildings in accordance with all applicable public health orders and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).

We are committed to providing technical guidance and support mechanisms to assist local school systems in completing this unprecedented school year. Tomorrow morning, I have called for a general meeting of superintendents, and the call-in information for the WebEx was shared with you in my email Wednesday evening. Tomorrow before the call, we will send each of you the following documents:

- 1) An ***Academic Continuity Planning Template*** that is intended to provide local flexibility with some general statewide parameters, and
- 2) A separate ***ALSDE Academic & Technical Guidance for Emergency End-of-Year School Closure Manual***.

Based on guidance issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), I am confirming or revising my previous general school guidance to you to include the following components:

As soon as possible, and no later than April 6, 2020,

- 1) In-person instruction is prohibited.
- 2) You do not need to take attendance for the rest of this school year.
- 3) All field trips, activities, convocations or gatherings, and athletics, whether in-state or out-of-state, should be canceled through June 5, 2020.
- 4) If you have not already completed enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures in your buildings during the current closure period, this should be completed no later than April 6, 2020. Some limited access to some buildings is already underway in some schools; however, this enhanced cleaning should be completed before teachers and staff begin to re-enter the buildings in greater numbers, which may be necessary to implement your school closure plans.
- 5) Even though more teachers and staff may be returning to buildings, strict adherence to all social distancing guidelines is necessary, including limitations on congregating even in moderate size groups.
- 6) If you become aware of a confirmed COVID-19 case in your school community, notify Jennifer Ventress immediately at jventress@alsde.edu or work phone: (334) 694-4726/cell: (334) 268-0133.

For planning purposes, I am declaring June 5, 2020, as the last day of the 2019-2020 school year. You may set an earlier day at your discretion in consultation with your local school board.

Please consider this guidance as applicable through the remainder of this school year, which should be finalized by June 5, 2020. These orders may be revisited should the public health crisis improve before then end of the school year. Our collective commitment to protect the health and safety of Alabama's students remains our top priority.

I am grateful for the many teachers, administrators, and staff who have exhibited extraordinary resolve and effort, going above and beyond, to ensure that the physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of our students have not been ignored during this challenging time in our schools and communities.

Thank you for your work!

Eric S. Mackey

State Superintendent of Education