State Board of Education Work Session
July 14, 2020
CARES FUNDS

GEER
$48 Million
Approx. 12 months to spend

ESSER
$216 Million / $18 Million
Obligated by September 2022

CRF
$1.8 Billion
$300 Million Distance Learning spent by Dec. 31, 2020
Digital Curriculum
- The statewide digital curriculum will be taught by Alabama teachers.
- The digital curriculum is available for school systems at no charge.
- Each local school system will have the flexibility to include the digital curriculum in their local remote learning plans.
- The remote learning plans may differ from district to district as school systems have the discretion to implement according to what fits the system’s needs locally.

Digital Textbooks
- Improved access to digital textbooks and library
- Estimated cost for implementation would be $3,928,830

WiFi on School Buses
- This would allow students to have Internet access while riding buses to and from school.
- It will also allow buses to be parked throughout the community as mobile hotspots, a practice that has been effective in both rural and urban communities this spring.
- Currently 226 of our 6,418 buses are enabled (less than 1%).

Academic Support & Instructional Resources
- Instructional Resources to close achievement gaps, limit learning loss, and support parents who are assisting their children are very important.
- Enhance our afterschool tutoring, assessments, and other supports

COVID-19 Related Expenses for LEA’s
- ESSER funds are designed to improve coordination, responses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to long term closures to ensure equitable services.
- LEAs have the flexibility to determine best use of ESSER funds in their local school system. Expenses may include, but are not limited to, devices or hotspots to enhance remote learning, additional staffing like teachers or nurses, PPE such as masks or gloves, or additional cleaning or sanitization materials.
- LEAs complete application – once application is approved, the LEAs can draw the money.

Digital devices and Internet connection
- An exact price for this would be around $288,000,000 if we provided $400 for each student.
- $100,000,000 for Internet-enabled devices.
- Distribute funds to LEAs on a grant basis.

Healthcare supports
- This could include grants to upgrade nursing facilities, pay for extra weeks for nurses to work in the summer preparing, pay for sub nurses, and simply add more nurses.
- Distribute funds via grants to LEAs.
- Approximately $72,000,000 to give each school $50,000.
Improving Remote Learning

- Statewide Digital Curriculum
- Devices for Students
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Statewide Learning Management System
- Connectivity in Rural Areas through Broadband Expansion, WiFi Access Points, and Hot Spots
Remote Learning Access Tools

Digital Curriculum/ Learning Management System
- Digital Content
  - Schoology (Acquired)
  - RFP in Process
  - Statewide curriculum for local education agencies
  - Approx. cost is $18,000,000
  - Funded with ESSER from USED
- Digital Textbooks
  - Approx. cost is $4,000,000
  - Additional funding request

TOTAL = $22,000,000 less $18,000,000 from ESSER
FUNDING REQUEST = $4,000,000

Internet Connection
- Broadband (Fiber Optic)
- Telephone companies
- Rural Electric Companies
- Cable Companies
- Satellites
- Wireless
  - Telephone companies
  - Wireless carriers
- Public libraries
- WiFi enabled Buses
  - Conducted survey – less than 1% of buses in the state are WiFi enabled (226 out of 6,418)
  - Approx. equipment cost is $7,000,000
  - Annual service/connection charge is approx. $3,000,000
  - Additional funding request

TOTAL = $10,000,000
FUNDING REQUEST = $10,000,000

Internet Enabled Devices
- Apple
- Microsoft
- Google
- Laptops, Tablets
- Approx. cost is $100,000,000 = $135 per student
- Additional funding request
- Funds for devices would be distributed to local education agencies in grants

Survey indicates school issued at-home devices:
- Chromebooks = 63%
- iPads = 1%
- Other Laptops = 36%

TOTAL = $100,000,000
FUNDING REQUEST = $100,000,000
Facial Coverings

2.5 Million Masks have been ordered for Alabama Schools

Approximately 3 washable, reusable masks for each student and staff member. Funding was provided by CRF.
Over 600 gallons of hand sanitizer have been delivered to Alabama Schools. Funding was provided by CRF.
"Local school districts shall make staffing decisions and determinations related to access to school buildings in accordance with all applicable public health orders …"

Alabama Governor’s 4th Supplemental State of Emergency
ADPH Color-Coded Guides by County

Released June 30, 2020
“...a new tool that allows policy makes and others viewing to recognize the COVID-19 risk status in each county and to guide health behavior.”
Governance

What the Roadmap IS

- A guidance document
- Based on evidence and expertise
- Comprised of the essential actions designed to spur thinking, planning, and prioritization
- Part of a continuum of school decision making

What the Roadmap is NOT

- Not legal advice or an ALSDE mandate
- Not based on opinion or ideology
- Not an exhaustive list of every action that a school system or school leader will need to return to school
- Not a remote-learning playbook or school-closure guidance
Educational Responsibilities

Alabama Department of Public Health
- Contact tracing
- Public Health guidance and orders
- Establish recommendations for personal hygiene and social expectations

Alabama State Department of Education
- Research and share best practices for learning during pandemic
- Remote Learning Framework
  - Professional Development
  - Learning Management System
  - Digital Curriculum Content
- Expectations for statewide standards and expectations for
  - Spending federal and state funds
  - Attendance
  - Assessment and accountability
  - Transportation
  - Vulnerable populations
  - Child nutrition

Local School Systems
- Establish school calendar
- Clean and sanitize buildings
- Teach students and respond to learning needs
- Utilize funds on priorities based on individual community needs
- Manage day-to-day operations
Issues Public Health Orders
Contact Tracing
Determines County Risk Alert Level
Recommendations for personal hygiene and social expectations
Roadmap Focus Areas

Instruction & Technology

Operations & Facilities

Wellness
Roadmap Recommendations

**Essential**
Required by law, policy, or governmental order, or a critical practice.

**Guidance**
Best practices gleaned from research and long-term experience and highly recommended for implementation where feasible.

**Consideration**
Additional best practices informed by emerging research, recent studies, and practical experience.
Navigating the Status of Campus Availability

Recommendations for school systems categorized by Essential, Guidance, & Consideration. DO NOW before the 2020-2021 school year begins.

Return to Campus

Recommendations for school systems categorized by Essential, Guidance, & Consideration.
Instructional Scenarios

**Traditional**
Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.

**Remote**
Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual and paper resources. Teachers have regular check-in times and can provide virtual instruction.

**Blended**
Students transition between traditional and remote and back again as needed or by preference.
American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released guidance for school re-entry. In this guidance, AAP firmly states, “the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits.”
Local Boards of Education upon the recommendation of their Superintendent and in consultation with the Alabama Department of Public Health and/or local public health officials will make determinations about specific changes in campus status throughout the year.

Will campuses reopen for in-person instruction?

**YES**
The expectation is for Alabama campuses to reopen this fall.

**BUT**
There will be a remote learning option.

**AND**
Local Boards of Education upon the recommendation of their Superintendent and in consultation with the Alabama Department of Public Health and/or local public health officials will make determinations about specific changes in campus status throughout the year.
Wellness
Jennifer Ventress

Vendors and Customer Service
Terry Roller

Transportation
Chad Carpenter

Child Nutrition
June Barrett Owen

Learning & Assessment
Dr. Elisabeth Davis and Angela Martin

Career Tech
Dr. Jimmy Hull
LEA Communication Timeline

Dr. Daniel Boyd
LEA Communication

92 Documents

36 Technical Guidance Documents

29 ALSDE COVID-19 Related Memoranda

27 Superintendent Weekly Updates
MARCH 2020

- March 6 through Current – LEA Superintendent Weekly Updates
- March 13 – Guidance for School Closure (March 18 – April 6); Coronavirus Parent and LEA Guide (English & Spanish)
- March 15 – Released COVID-19 FAQs
- March 17 – Announcement for Superintendent’s Extending Access to Learning (SEAL Task Force)
- March 18 – Short-term Closure CNP Guidance
- March 18 through 24 – LEA Superintendents’ survey administration & data analysis regarding completing 19-20 school year, challenges, current inventory, etc.
- March 19 – SEAL Task Force Inaugural Meeting
- March 20 – School Closure Updates and Technical Guidance Issued
- March 20 – Submission of Assessment & Accountability Waiver to USDOE
- March 26 – Submission of USDA Meal Pattern Flexibility Request (CNP)
- March 24 – DRAFT LEA Academic Continuity Plan reviewed with SEAL Task Force
- March 26 – LEA Academic Continuity Plan Template & Guidance Released
- March 26 – Temporary Flexibility for Educator Preparation/Certification Requirements
- March 27 – USDOE Approval of Assessment & Accountability Waiver
- March 30 – Webinars (2) hosted by ALSDE for LEA curriculum leaders on completing and implementing LEA Academic Continuity Plan
- March 31 – Webinars (2) hosted by ALSDE for LEA curriculum leaders on completing and implementing LEA Academic Continuity Plan

APRIL 2020

- April 1 – Special Education Services Q & As Released
- April 2 & April 3 – LEA school staffing (skeleton crew example) and completing 19-20 school year updates
- April 6 – Federal Funding waiver submitted to USDOE
- April 8 – Webinar hosted by CLAS – COVID-19 Considerations for Special Educators (Crystal Richardson and Julie Weatherly)
- April 9 – Announcement of Educator Certification Flexibilities
- April 20 – Webinar hosted by CLAS – COVID 19 Special Education, 504, and More, Oh My! (Crystal Richardson and Julie Weatherly)
- April 21 – USDOE Approval of Funding Flexibility Waiver
- April 29 – Release LEA Application for CARES Act ESSER funds
May 2020
- May 5 – CARES Act FAQs and other resources
- May 5 – Webinar hosted by CLAS – Supporting English Learners (ELs) Through COVID-19 (Susan Beard and Heidi Goertzen)

June 2020
- June 22 – USDOE IDEA Dispute Resolution FAQs
- June 19 – 21 – Review DRAFT Alabama Roadmap for Reopening Schools with LEA superintendents for feedback
- June 26 – Release of Roadmap for Reopening Alabama’s Schools & Parent Guide
- June 26 – Webinar hosted by ALSDE with LEA curriculum leaders on the reopening roadmap

July 2020
- July 6, 7, & 9 – Webinar series hosted by CLAS for training on roadmap (ALSDE Office of Student Learning, Jeff Langham, Chad Carpenter, June Barrett, Terry Roller, and Anna Morris: LEAs – Boaz City, Huntsville City, and Opelika City)
Wellness

Jennifer Ventress
Customer Service & Vendors

Terry Roller
Customer Service

- Beginning March 16, 2020
- 1500 communications logged
  - 311 Parents
  - 249 Superintendent and/or designees
  - Stakeholders, doctors, elected officials, vendors (PPE)
  - Governmental interagency collaboration
- Forms of communication
  - Phone calls
  - Emails
- 24-hour turn around
- Time in/out, name, location, nature of the call, action taken, follow-up activities
Vendors

- Over 45 vendors
- Updated weekly
- Shared with local education agencies
- Various products including:
  - Masks
    - Disposable
    - Washable
    - Customizable
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Face shields
  - Gloves
  - Thermometers
  - Disinfectants
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Face masks
  - Respirators, N95, KN95, non-medical masks, (80-95% efficacy) hand sanitizer, gloves, face shields, head covers, shoe covers
  - Adhesive bandages, cuts strips
  - Surface disinfectants, sprays
  - Disinfectant wipes
  - Air purification UV Light
Transportation

Chad Carpenter
Transportation

- Survey parents (virtual & self transport)
- Parents/guardians sign notice
- Develop specific bus driver protocol for symptomatic child
- Disinfect buses between routes
- Bus driver responsibilities during loading process (No temp check)
- Hand sanitizer
- Plexiglass barriers
  - FMVSS standards
  - Provide driver PPE
- Social distancing ideas
  - Skip seats (if possible)
  - Leave first two seats open
  - Sit household families together
  - Assign seats (contact tracing)
  - Load back to front & invert unloading
Child Nutrition

June Barrett Owen,
Med, RD, LD, SNS
Child Nutrition

- Communication
- Planning for meal service locations
  - Cafeteria
  - Classroom
  - Other areas of the school
- Menu Planning, Service and Production
  - Dining location
  - Product Availability
  - Student ages
  - Special Needs
- Meal Counting and Claiming
  - Reimbursable meals counted by computer
  - Or roster
  - Prepayments
- Training- Staff
- Food Safety
- Waivers
Learning & Assessments

Angela Martin & Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Held conference calls with Evan Skloot, Don Peasley and Debra Sphitz with the USDOE on Friday, July 10, 2020 concerning assessment and accountability flexibility opportunities.

The USDOE is currently working on a document for implications of accountability system and assessment reporting for states based on waivers granted for the 2019-2020 school year.

The USDOE has encouraged states to stay in communication with their program directors relative to changes move through your state.

So far, the USDOE is not looking to consider blanket waivers as they did this spring.

The expectation from the USDOE is that students test this spring, but realizes things can change as they did this spring 2020.

Working with vendors to for secure opportunities for all students:
- Validity Study Conversations Occurring
- WorkKeys Confirmed
- ACT and DRC Planning Conversations Occurring

NAEP Updates:
- August 28, 2020 states will be informed of assessment status.

Current 2019-2021 Assessment and Accountability Waivers

Chronic Absenteeism
- Coding
Learning & Assessments

- Alabama’s Reopening Roadmap Assessment System Framework
  - Provides comprehensive review of assessments
  - Aligns assessments to roadmap recommendations – essential, guidance, or consideration
  - Provides brief overview of each assessment and direct links to access related information

- Early Childhood Years Assessment System
  - AlaKiDS Overview [https://www.alsde.edu/sites/memos/Memoranda/FY20-2100.pdf](https://www.alsde.edu/sites/memos/Memoranda/FY20-2100.pdf)
  - Implementation Flexibility
    - The assessments are available in multiple languages.
    - All vendors are currently working on the process for implementing the assessments remotely.
    - The AlaKiDS virtual training dates previously shared in a memorandum dated July 1, 2020, provided multiple opportunities for teachers and other leaders to attend a session that best meets their needs.
    - Other AlaKiDS training options include assigning a limited number of teachers or other district personnel to attend with the plan to turn it around to the LEA.
    - Schedule an LEA training facilitated by your ARI Regional Literacy Specialist to help with LEA-specific calendars. ARI Regional Literacy Specialists are receiving specifically designed training that equips them to facilitate AlaKiDS training (either virtually or in person).
    - For the early math and reading assessments, LEAs have additional flexibility with the vendor(s) to organize individualized training based on specific timelines and needs.
    - Testing windows are provided in the attached chart and include very broad, suggested administration windows spanning several months that allows for additional flexibility.
Learning & Assessments

LEA Supports for Implementation of Reopening Roadmap

- **ALSDE Webinar Series Hosted by CLAS**
  - **Webinar Series:** Planning for Teaching, Learning, Assessments, & Supporting Vulnerable Populations (July 6, 2020); Using the Roadmap to Design Remote Learning Environments for Student Success (July 7, 2020); & Facilities, Operation, Transportation, Wellness, & Communication (July 9, 2020)
  - **Webinar Goals & Outcomes:**
    - Provide ALSDE in-depth information & LEA “boots on the ground” implementation
    - Fielded questions and answers from LEAs
    - Shared insights and resources directly aligned to specified component of roadmap
  - **Frequently Asked Questions:** Compiled and will be posted on ALSDE COVID-19 site by July 17, 2020
Learning & Assessments

- Making All-Remote Work
  - Sufficient internet speed
  - A learning management system (LMS) with developed curriculum content /LMS – Schoology & Curriculum Content – SchoolsPLP and ACCESS
  - A device and Wi-fi access for every child /Supplemental Appropriations Funds, CARES Act Funds, & Device Specs
  - Teacher training on virtual instruction
    - Designing Remote Learning Framework
    - Huntsville City Schools DRAFT Remote Learning Reset Plan -
    - Opelika City Schools - Parent Academy for Technology
    - Opelika City Schools – Teacher Professional Development Depository here (Click the + and choose to join a class. The code is nk7732b)
Career Tech

1. Career Tech Centers
   a. Mixing Schools
   b. Shared tools and equipment
   c. Class sizes
2. Lab/Shop/Hands on Work
   a. Proper cleaning
   b. Distancing
3. Virtual options