



This list of questions and answers represents the best information we have at this time. This is a live document that will be updated as frequently as possible as new guidance comes to us.

Curriculum & Instruction

Q: How will instruction for students continue with the closure of schools? A: Governor Kay Ivey and State Superintendent Eric Mackey announced on March 26, 2020, that students will not be returning to campuses for the 2019-2020 School Year. Districts are now tasked with developing alternate, instructional plans. Instruction will begin on Monday, April 6, 2020. Separate and apart from teacher-based instruction, students may engage in many online learning resources already provided by the school district. These resources can be used to maintain some learning structure and routines. Reading for pleasure, daily physical activity, and exploring opportunities for creativity and play are all things that children can and should do within the restrictions of social distancing during this extraordinary time.

Q: Will Etowah County Schools virtual classrooms and ACCESS classes continue? Yes, with a few modifications. You will do all assignments at home, including your exam. Your ACCESS teacher will be adjusting pacing guides to take into consideration the days we have missed. You will still be required to do your work and take your exams. Your facilitator from school will be monitoring your progress. If you are on Odysseyware, it is the same. You will still be expected to complete your work as before. The only change is you will take your exams at home.

Q: Will Special Education timelines/IEP meetings/evaluations/re-evaluations be amended due to the closure? A: IEP Teams are not required to meet and staff are not required to complete evaluations during Governor Ivey's mandated school closure. Beginning April 6th IEP Teams will begin scheduling virtual meetings with parents.

Q: What about report cards? A: The third nine weeks report cards were distributed on March 13, 2020. Final report cards will be distributed in May. Exact date is to be determined.

Q: I have a student assigned to the Refocus Alternative Center. Will this closure affect his or her assigned days? A: March 16-April 3 will count toward the Refocus assignment. Each student will be different due to the placement and times absent up to March 16 through April 3, 2020. Refocus teachers and administrators will be contacting each student/parent to inform them about the placement of the students.

Q: Will I have to take the state standardized tests (ACAP) or the ACT when I return?

A: The Alabama State Department of Education has announced all standardized testing will be suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Therefore, the ACAP will not be given this year. The ACT was taken on March 10, 2020.

Q: What about semester exams? A: There will be no semester exams this year. AP (Advanced Placement) students can voluntarily choose to take AP exams at home following College Board protocols. Your AP teacher will be able to help you with this information.

Technology/Virtual Learning (devices, internet connectivity)

Q: What if my child would like to practice typing, learn to code, and access programs provided by the district? A: The district has provided an [ECBOE Engaged Learning at Home Guide for Families](#)

Q: What if I need access to internet service? A: This is a list of internet providers in the Etowah County area.

- Comcast (1-800-934-6489):
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j1uri7Zhx5uznfQF46f1G76gL1YPf4FuMhLyQ8z1UCA/edit>
- Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone via hotspots
- Discounting data limits
- No disconnect or late fees
- News, Information and Educational Content on X1 and Flex
- Charter (1-844-488-839):
 - Free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students, who do not already have a Spectrum broadband

subscription, at any service level up to 100 MBPS. Install fees waived.

- Open Wi-Fi hotspots across its footprint for public use
- For eligible low-income households without school-aged children, Charter continues to offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps.
- AT&T (1-800-288-2020):
 - Free access to its public WiFi hotspots
 - Suspending terminations and late fees for nonpayment
 - Unlimited data for consumer home internet wireline customers and fixed wireless internet customers
- T-Mobile (1 (800) 937-8997):
 - Unlimited data to all current customers who have plans with data for the next 60 days
 - Additional data to mobile hotspots

Available April 6, 2020: Wifi will also be available at each school's parking lot.

Q: Will Dual Enrollment Classes continue in a virtual format. Are we going to allow our students to do this? A: Colleges are the authority on dual enrollment classes. Classes cannot meet physically on our campuses.

School Health

Q: Am I allowed to pick up my child's medicine? A: You may contact the school to arrange a time for medication pickup.

Q: What other resources are available? A: Some mental health resources have been assembled:

Visit <https://consciousdiscipline.com/> for the following resources:

- COVID-19 [Conscious Discipline: Five Helpful Resources for Families](#)
- COVID-19 [Articles for Families and Educators](#)

Visit <https://resilienceguide.org/> for the following resource:

- [Parent guide to Resilience](#)

Visit <https://ecboe.org/> for the following resource:

- Please visit our website for our [Etowah County Community Resource Guide](#)
- Please contact our school social worker if you are in need of assistance:
cindy_Kirkland@ecboe.org hope_Whitaker@ecboe.org lottie_Hawkins@ecboe.org
- For additional resources or assistance please contact your school administrator or

counselor.

Child Nutrition Program (CNP)/Student Meals

Q: What about student meals? A: Please check our website and ECBOE Facebook page for additional information. Distribution dates and pick up times will be announced as they are planned.

Q: My family might need additional food or other assistance during this time. What should I do? A: You are encouraged to contact your school counselor during this time. Our social workers are also available to assist families. cindy_kirkland@ecboe.org
hope_whitaker@ecboe.org lottie_hawkins@ecboe.org

General Topics

Q: What if my child has left an item at school we need to retrieve?

A: Please contact your school's administrator for specific information.

Q: Will Kindergarten Registration still occur on April 1st?

A: No. It will be rescheduled.

Q: When will the First Class Pre-K drawing be held?

A: The Pre-K drawing was held on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Q: Will transfer requests be extended beyond the April 30, 2020 deadline? A: No. All transfer requests must be received electronically no later than close of business April 30, 2020.

Q: What about athletics? A: Athletics and all extracurricular activities are unfortunately over for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Q: What about Graduation Ceremonies? A: Currently, all Graduation Ceremonies that were scheduled in May have been cancelled. We are optimistic that these ceremonies can be rescheduled for late summer. Information will be forthcoming regarding these events.

Q: What about field trips and other school-sponsored activities? A: All school-sponsored activities scheduled during the statewide school closure - including field trips and school dances

(ie. Prom, Coronation, etc.) - are suspended for the remainder of this academic year.

Q: How will attendance be counted virtually? A: Information forthcoming.

Q: What if I am new to Etowah County Schools and have planned to enroll in a Etowah County School during this closure? A: Please contact the school in which you are zoned to attend concerning enrollment.

ALSDE COVID-19 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE STATEMENT :

“In an effort to maintain ongoing communication efforts during this time when “social distancing” is critical, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has developed COVID-19 email addresses for parents and school employees. As new developments occur, we hope this method can be used to submit your COVID-19 related questions. ALSDE staff will be continuously monitoring submissions and will provide responses in a timely manner. We will continue to work through this together to support “Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.”

If you are a parent with a COVID-19 related question: COVID19PARENTS@ALSDE.EDU

If you are a school employee with a COVID-19 related question: COVID19SCHOOLS@ALSDE.EDU