



Alabama State Department of Education 2019-2020 Local Education Agency Academic Continuity Plan

March 27, 2020

COMPLETION OF 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic's implications on Alabama's public schools, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has surveyed Local Education Agencies (LEA) superintendents, as well as researched other states' plans of assistance to help districts complete the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

ALSDE SUPPORT PRIORITIES & TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

The ALSDE is committed to providing essential technical guidance and support mechanisms to assist LEAs in completing this unprecedented school year by allowing flexibility—with statewide parameters—and for as much as practical, proceed with graduation and promotion procedures by June 5, 2020.

The ALSDE has identified minimum parameters for LEAs to consider when completing the LEA Academic Continuity Plan:

- ✓ Core Academic Areas;
- ✓ Delivery Platform Options (Section A);
- ✓ Grades K-8 Critical Core Academic Standards (Section B – Option I);
- ✓ Grades 9–11 Critical Core and Required Courses (Section D – II); and
- ✓ Limited Scope of Delivery.
 - Is the activity essential?
 - Can the activity be done remotely?
 - If there is no other choice, then can the activity be done safely considering keeping individuals separated by distance, not congregating in close proximity, and the health of participants (students, educators, and others) is protected? Consulting with the local health department and other local agencies is advisable.

The ALSDE has coordinated multiple statewide efforts to assist LEAs with differentiated supports & resources. Additional information can be accessed in a newly developed "Emergency End-of-Year School Closure" technical guidance manual, which will be finalized and posted March 27, 2020.

- ✓ *ALSDE Academic & Technical Guidance for Emergency End-of-Year School Closures Manual*
- ✓ Alabama Education Remote Learning Site (Powered by EBSCO)
- ✓ Alabama Public Television (APT)
- ✓ Alabama Public Library Service
- ✓ ALSDE Technical Assistance Team to assist LEAs with development of the plan
- ✓ *ALSDE Academic & Technical Guidance for Opening 2020-2021 School Year Following Emergency End-of-Year Closure Manual* (will include summer timelines, planning guidance to identify academic gaps, and critical considerations following the emergency school closure conditions)

LEA DISTRICT ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Complete LEA Academic Continuity Plan while considering individual needs and capacity.
 - Section A: Identify and provide multiple instructional delivery options including digital, virtual, delivery of educational packets, etc. that include a blended or hybrid approach.
 - Section B: Identify content provider(s) that meets the needs of your district based on current resources, as well as state resources.
- ✓ Utilize a variety of communication methods for classrooms to connect, provide feedback, ask questions, etc. including but not limited to the following: Class Dojo; Remind Me App; Google Hangout; Learning Management System (Canvas, Blackboard, Etc.); or a "Parent Hotline" that is manned by a rotation schedule of teachers/educators to provide access for parents and students to ask questions related to assignments.
- ✓ Submit completed LEA plan to leaplans@alsde.edu no later than April 3, 2020.
- ✓ Complete Section F, including optional request for ALSDE Technical Assistance to finalize the plan.

NAME OF LEA: Bessemer City School System

SECTION A: DELIVERY OPTIONS (Select all that apply)

- Option I:** Distance/Virtual/e-Learning/Remote Method(s)
- Option II:** Packets/Assignments (portfolio, project-based, etc.)
- Option III:** Blended (combination of Options I & II)
- Option IV:** Other _____

SECTION B: INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT OPTIONS (Select all that apply)

_____ **Option I:** ALSDE Resources (See manual for details)

- ACCESS Distance Learning Online Platform and/or Franchise
- Model Scantron Achievement Series ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies Assessments (Quick Pick and Normal Tests)
- [ALSDE K-8 Critical Standards Chart](#)
- K12 Inc./Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)/Etc.
- Alabama Education Remote Learning Site (Instruction Only)

_____ **Option II:** Individual LEA Hosted/Vendor

A. Provider Name: Acellus

Acellus classes are broken into small concepts, and each concept is taught via video instruction that is short and concise. After the video students are given an assessment to determine mastery of concept. If the student shows mastery, they move to the next lesson. However, if additional help is required, another video will be delivered automatically, targeting the deficiency in the student's understanding.

B. Minimum Criteria Assurances (Contact vendors to obtain information):

Accreditation: WASC

Organizational Stability: Effective and stable organizational and management structure

Instruction/Content: Content and activities align to Alabama standards; accurate and appropriate for each grade-level; evidence of at least 2 subject matter experts review and validation for accuracy; scientifically/research-based; provides differentiation of content, delivery of content, and assessment options to allow for multiple pathways for standards/course mastery

Student Performance & Assessments: Objectives or assessments used to measure student progress towards mastery of the standards

Data Reporting: Standards mastery; student participation in coursework; progress monitoring towards completion of the course; and alignment to state and federal data management requirements

Special Populations: Students with special needs, including students with disabilities, ELs, free/reduced lunch, etc. are not excluded from participating in courses; LEA must comply with all state and federal regulations specific to students with disabilities and collaborate with the vendor/provider to ensure appropriate access

Technical Support: Consistently available on a timely basis for students, parents, and districts

X **Option III:** Combination of Options I & II OR Other (see pg. 8 for brief description)

SECTION C: FINAL COURSE GRADE OPTIONS

- Option I:** "Credit by Examination" or "Credit by Advancement" for students for Grades 6 (if grade 6 is in a middle school setting)/7 – Grade 12 with End-of-Year/End-of-Course Assessment **or** Assignment to measure standards mastery
- Option II:** Third nine-week grades as final grades/completion for the year
- Option III:** Average first, second, & third nine-week grades with fourth nine-week assignments (digital, packets, blended, etc.) grade for End-of-Year Grade
- Option IV:** End-of-Course Assessment grade averaged with first, second, and third nine-week report card grades for End-of-Year Final Grade
- Option V:** Pass/Fail (Any K-8 course except for courses taken for a Carnegie Unit)
- Option VI:** Other _____

SECTION D: LIMITED COURSE SCOPE DELIVERY GUIDANCE

I. Seniors (Class of 2020)

- ✓ **Seniors who are on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine weeks reporting period** will be considered "as meeting the graduation requirements" for the state of Alabama.
- ✓ Districts may still implement local policies for honor graduates and class rank and should make local decisions regarding end-of-year participation for current high school seniors regarding graduation.
- ✓ Seniors who were not on track **must** be given the opportunity for credit recovery immediately, rather than waiting until summer programs.
- ✓ Students enrolled in courses for weighted credit, such as AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, etc. should still receive weighted credit regardless of the ability of a student to take an AP/IB/or other assessment.
- ✓ Alabama Essentials Pathway work hour requirements shall be waived.
- ✓ Districts should continue to find methods to support seniors' next steps, such as assisting with FAFSA, scholarship applications, applications for post-secondary opportunities, etc.
- ✓ Processes still pending but will **NOT** impact graduation status:
 - Credentialing & Other Career Technical Related Certifications Needed for Careers, and
 - Dual Enrollment Course Completion – Adhere to all Post-Secondary and Institutions of Higher Learning requirements and guidance to complete 2019-2020 school year.

II. Grades 9 – 11 (Class of 2021, 2022, & 2023) Critical Courses for Completion

- ✓ English 9, English 10, and English 11, & other ALSDE approved ELA credit-eligible courses
- ✓ Algebra I (Algebra I-A and Algebra I-B), Geometry, Algebraic Connections, Algebra II, & other ALSDE approved mathematics credit-eligible courses ✓
- ✓ Biology, Physical Science, & other ALSDE approved science credit-eligible courses

- ✓ World History, US History I, US History II, & other ALSDE approved social studies credit-eligible courses
- ✓ Other Graduation Requirements: Career Preparedness; Health Education; LIFE PE
- ✓ Arts Education/Career and Technical Education/World Languages courses

III. Grades K – 8

- ✓ Identification of [ALSDE K-8 Critical Standards Chart](#) (see pg. 8)

SECTION E. OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL ASSURANCES

SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

It is clear the USDOE does not want schools in Alabama or elsewhere to consider the provision of services to students with disabilities under the IDEA as a barrier or a reason not to offer educational services to any of their students through distance instruction or otherwise.

- In compliance with COVID-19 guidance, the following assurances have been discussed and are included in planning efforts for students with disabilities, including students with 504 plans.
 - ✓ Make **every effort** to provide services for all students with disabilities, including students with 504 plans, and **maintain appropriate documentation** to support all efforts;
 - ✓ Assure that students with disabilities will not be excluded from participating in courses;
 - ✓ Comply with all state and federal regulations;
 - ✓ Ensure educators and administrators collaborate and utilize creative options to meet the individual needs of the students; and
 - ✓ Consider the impact of the LEA's grading option selected in Section C as it relates to IEP review and development for each student. The most recent USDOE guidance can be found [here](#), and additional instructional support resources can be found in the *Academic & Technical Guidance for Emergency End-of-Year School Closures Manual*.

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- As LEAs focus on supporting English Language Learners, it is essential to work collaboratively with staff and other agencies to plan appropriately for the following:
 - ✓ Provide effective two-way communication with families in a language that they understand.
 - ✓ Tailor instruction and assessments to students' English Language proficiency needs in all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing).

SECTION F: LEA CERTIFICATION OF ASSURANCES

Superintendent's Signature: Autumm M. Jeter
Superintendent's Name Printed: Autumm M. Jeter
Date: April 1, 2020

- Other LEA-Related Legal Considerations or Obstacles that Impact Conditions of Academic Continuity Plan
 - ✓ If yes, please provide details _____

- Request for ALSDE Technical Assistance Team assistance for LEA Academic Continuity Plan
 - ✓ District Support _____
 - ✓ Elementary _____
 - ✓ Secondary _____
 - ✓ Other _____

SECTION G: ALSDE ACCEPTANCE

Date Received: _____

State Superintendent Acceptance: _____

INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- Grades K-1 (instructional packets)
 - all standards on the ALSDE Critical Standards Charts
 - receive instructional packets with critical standards written on each assignment
- Grades 2-11 (Acellus, Google Classroom, instructional packets)
 - Grades 2-8: ALSDE critical standards assigned on Acellus
 - Grades 9-11: assign standards based on the pacing guide
- Students with IEPs
 - Multi-sensory instruction that is custom designed for students with special needs
- EL Learners – assigned to Acellus Discover English to help them master the language
- Teachers will use Live Monitoring to monitor students on progress

Online Delivery Method

Acellus will provide students with the following:

- video-based lessons
- customized personal instruction (CPI) videos once specific deficiencies are identified
- vectored instruction, which will help students master the foundational prerequisite skills they are missing

Teacher Support

- use a variety of methods to communicate with the students (discussion boards, email, Google Classroom, Google Hangout, Class Dojo, videos, etc.);
- schedule virtual hours or be available upon request;
 - Elementary teachers- 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
 - Middle School teachers- 11a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - High School teachers- 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- daily monitor student progress towards mastery and completion of standards;
- communicate with parents and students;
- make every effort to follow IEPs and 504 plans, and maintain documentation;
- develop rubrics to grade projects;

Bessemer City Schools Special Education Department Emergency Plan for School Closure

Goal

The purpose of this plan is to outline Bessemer City Schools good faith, reasonable efforts to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The scope and sequence of services will support ASLDE Critical Standards and Critical Alternate Achievement Standards.

Instruction

Special Education teachers servicing students on the General Education Curriculum will follow Bessemer City Schools guidelines developed by the Department of Instruction for system-wide service delivery based on ALSDE Critical Standards.

- Grades Pre-K-1
 - Teachers will prepare paper/pencil assignments.
 - Teachers will develop activities based on the critical standards.
 - Teachers will write related standard(s) at the top of each assignment.
 - Teachers will distribute assignments.
 - Special education teachers will collaborate with general education teachers on core content.
 - Special education teachers will conference with students/parents once a week to ensure clarity and understanding of each assignment.

- Grades 2-12 (All students will be distributed laptops)
 - Acellus and /or paper-pencil assignments:
 - Teachers will assign special assignments in Acellus.
 - Teachers may also provide paper/pencil assignments (essays, projects, book reports OPTIONAL).
 - Special education teachers will collaborate with general education teachers on core content.
 - Special education teachers will conference with student/parent once a week to ensure the clarity and understanding of each assignment.

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Dr. Autumm M. Jeter
Superintendent

Special Education teachers servicing students on Alternate Achievement Standards will identify critical standards for each student and develop paper/pencil assignments that will be monitored via phone conference once a week.

- Special education teachers will provide paper/pencil assignments based on the critical Alternative Standards.
- Special education teachers will write related standard(s) at the top of each assignment to ensure requirements are addressed.
- Special education teachers will distribute assignment packets, and laptops, if needed.
- Special education teachers will conference with student/parent once a week to ensure the clarity and understanding of each assignment.

Related Services

- Contracted Occupation/Physical Therapy, and Behavior Counseling Services will provide reasonable teletherapy services based on the frequency of services listed in the student's IEP.
- Speech Therapist will provide services via teletherapy for students assigned to their caseload. Contact will be based on the frequency of services listed in the student's IEP.

Documentation

- Special education teachers will contact assigned students/parents on a weekly basis to provide additional support with core content and IEP goal.
- Special education teachers will document contact/support and submit documentation to the Special Education Department.
- Related service personnel will contact assigned students/parents per the frequency of services listed in the student's IEP.
- Related service personnel will document contact/support and submit the documentation to the Special Education Department.

Instruction & Assessment Options

- Grades K-8
 - ALSDE Critical Standards
 - Alternate Achievement Standards not previously taught
- Grades 9-12
 - Completion of Alabama Course of Study standards not previously taught
 - Completion of Alternate Achievement Standards not previously taught

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Superintendent

Final Course Grade

- Grades K-12
 - Average first-, second-, & third nine-week grades with fourth nine-week digital assignments and packet to determine grades for End-of-Year Grade. Based on this option, no comprehensive exam will be administered.
 - Per ALSDE, seniors on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine-week reporting period will be considered as meeting graduation requirements.





BESSEMER CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
E-LEARNING PLAN
April 6 - May 29

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

By the order of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, the campuses of Bessemer City Schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Although students will not return to their school building, Bessemer City Schools will implement a distance learning plan for all students beginning April 6, 2020. Although our distance learning plan will begin the week of April 6, we will also take this time to work through any obstacles related to distance learning. Parents and families should communicate to teachers any difficulties in accessing learning opportunities and resources so that appropriate adjustments or accommodations can be made.

Our learning plan is designed to provide daily instruction to students either online or for pick up at one of our current feeding locations. Critical content standards have been prioritized for the duration of this school year in each class and course. An important goal is finding the appropriate balance between the e-learning workload and necessary mastery for the next level of learning.

Seniors

- Seniors on track to graduate and in good standing as of the third nine-week reporting period will be considered "as meeting the graduation requirements" for the State of Alabama. That means, **YOU ARE A GRADUATE OF BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL!**
- Final course grades for seniors will be determined by averaging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine-weeks' grades.
- Seniors who are not on track will be given the opportunity for credit recovery immediately, rather than waiting until summer. Laptops will be provided if needed for Seniors who need to complete credit recovery.
- Dual Enrollment Course Completion – Adhere to Lawson State Community College requirements and guidance to complete 2019-2020 school year.

Our yearly graduation ceremonies will be rescheduled later this summer. More information will be available once the dates have been confirmed.

Students Grades K-11

- Final course grades for students in grades K-11 will be determined by averaging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine-week grades **with 4th nine-week assignments grades (digital, packets, blended, etc.)** grade for End-of-Year Grade.
- Students in 9th -11th grade who previously failed a course will have an opportunity to recover the credit in online summer school.
- The weekly lesson plans provided for your child contain essential content and activities to help them prepare for the next grade level or course.

Weekly lessons can be accessed in the following ways:

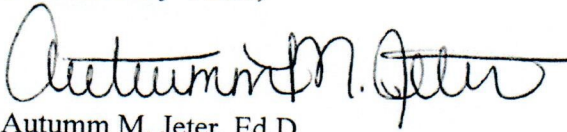
1. Weekly lessons will be available online beginning Monday, April 6 at www.acellus.com.
2. A paper copy of the instructional packets for students in grades K-1 will be available through our feeding sites beginning Thursday, April 9, 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. at the following locations: Abrams Elementary, Charles F. Hard Elementary, Jonesboro Elementary, and Westhills Elementary.
3. Lessons will also be available at your local school each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m., beginning Thursday, April 9 until Wednesday, May 20.

We are in the process of setting up a support hotline to troubleshoot and answer questions related to, but not limited to, logging in, difficulty maintaining online connection, screen freezing, other basic end user functioning, etc. The number for the technology support hotline will be placed on the district's website. Schools will begin collecting laptops the week of May 20.

We appreciate all of our families and look forward to continued communication with our students. Seniors in good academic standing, we are so proud of you and look forward to planning a graduation ceremony for you in the very near (summer) future.

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS in good academic standing as of the end of the 3rd-nine week grading period, **YOU ARE A GRADUATE OF BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL!!!**

Educationally Yours,



Autumm M. Jeter, Ed.D.
Superintendent