



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Continuation Task Force

SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: JUNE 29, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Jon Akers, Casey Allen, Tina Bojanowski, Eddie Campbell, Jaqueline Coleman, Jason Detre, Jim Evans, Jim Flynn, Ronda Harmon, Jeff Hawkins, Donna House, Regina Huff, Nancy Hutchinson, Mary Ann Jennings, David Johnson, Brian Lovell, Leon Mooneyhan, Martin Monson, OJ Okeka, Amy Razor, Mary Pat Regan, Jackie Risdén-Smith, Mary Ruble, Kerri Schelling, Julian Tackett, Ben Wilcox, Wayne Young, Max Wise

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenters: Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education
Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Summary of Discussion:

Interim Commissioner Brown welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. Brown reminded the group to provide feedback in the Teams chat.

Lt. Gov. Coleman thanked task force members for their valuable feedback and input.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Food Services Guidance

Presenters: Lauren Moore, Director
Katie Embree, Manager
Division of School and Community Nutrition, Office of Finance and Operations
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Lauren Moore provided updates on current school nutrition initiatives.

- The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program (P-EBT) application deadline was extended to from June 30 to July 10. So far, \$155 million in benefits have been dispersed to more than 515,000 students.
- Twenty districts are participating in the Baylor University emergency Meals-to-You program, allowing families in those districts to receive 10 days of meals by mail every two weeks. That benefit will continue through Aug. 15.
- Several districts are still providing Summer Food Service programs and Seamless Summer options.
- Seventy-six percent of sponsors are participating at 100% in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), meaning the districts which participate are providing meals at no cost to every student in the district. The deadline for districts to elect participation is Aug. 31.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted new waivers, allowing districts to continue feeding students during non-traditional instruction (NTI) throughout the 2020-2021 school year. All program waivers were extended to June 30, 2021.

Katie Embree reviewed information contained in the [food service guidance document](#) released June 22. The document details considerations around the meal service environment, meal pattern, food safety plan and operational supports. Districts may email the Division of School and Community Nutrition for assistance at kyschoolnutrition@education.ky.gov with the subject line “COVID-19 Meal Service Operations Assistance Request.” Details can be found in the [presentation](#) used during the meeting.

Question: Will P-EBT be extended through July?

Answer: P-EBT applications were recently extended from June 30 to July 10.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Transportation Guidance

Presenters: Elisa Hanley, Office of Finance and Operations

Kay Kennedy, Office of Finance and Operations

Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Kennedy reviewed transportation options. Districts should survey their families to gather input about parents’ plans for transportation in the 2020-2021 school year, since masks will be required on buses.

Hanley reviewed the components of the [transportation guidance document](#) released June 25. The mitigation strategies districts must consider include wearing a mask, seating, student temperatures, hand sanitizer, number of students on the bus and ventilation. Employee safety considerations also were reviewed. Capacity charts are included in the guidance document, but those efforts also should be coordinated with local health departments.

Question: Will students’ temperatures be checked before getting on the bus or when they arrive at school?

Answer: Either is acceptable.

Question: If buses cannot operate at full capacity, how will riders be determined?

Answer: This will have to be determined at the district level depending on their instructional model and possibly using survey data from families.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Task Force Member News

Presenter: Ben Wilcox, State School Safety Marshal
Department of Criminal Justice Training

Summary of Discussion:

Wilcox updated task force members about current activities of the Safety Marshal's office. School safety assessors have been back in schools since late May and have completed about 1,100 schools, with 300 left to be assessed. The initial assessment is for relationship building with compliance officers and reviewing the new assessment tool. Wilcox's office has been attending task force and other partner meetings to stay informed about questions and issues that need attention during the 2020-2021 school year.

Questions have been received about whether there will be an issue with locking interior doors while trying to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Department for Public Health (DPH) reviewed the School Safety and Resiliency Act and reported no issues with keeping doors locked during instructional time. Issues will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the law does provide flexibility for public health concerns.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training (DCJT) is required to develop active-shooter training, which should be viewed by staff together. Wilcox's office is working with KDE and DPH to offer guidelines for safely watching the video as a group or in groups.

Wilcox reminded task force members that the security and safety of students is a concern, as students may act out after being away from school for such a long time. Families may arrive and be upset about the situation, so staying compliant with the School Safety and Resiliency Act will be important.

Districts are encouraged to contact the School Safety Marshal's office with questions. A compliance officer can visit upon request to help schools determine compliance and best practice in specific areas of the school building. The DCJT is a compliance agency, but it also is a resource for districts.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Facilities Guidance

Presenter: Kay Kennedy, Office of Finance and Operations
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Kennedy discussed the [facilities reopening guidance](#) released June 29, which is based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Five components must be addressed: cleaning and sanitization, facility utilization, building systems, emergency drills and operations. Kennedy showed task force members how the document is organized and discussed details of the five components. A worksheet on the guidance will help districts evaluate the spaces in their facilities to determine if they need to clean, disinfect or sanitize the area; how often; which products should be used; and other instructions relevant to the task. Another tool included in the guidance will help districts determine how many students can be in an area while maintaining 6 feet of social distancing.

Question: Can schools use alcohol-based sanitizers for surfaces and other areas?

Answer: Approved products are linked in the guidance documents. Employees should be trained on the usage of products they are not familiar with as additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be necessary when using certain products. Products are only effective when used correctly, so training is imperative.

Question: Will districts determine how staff will be tested? Will this become a local policy?

Answer: Guidance scheduled to release during the week of July 6 will outline additional considerations for districts as they implement the guidance from DPH. The document will include information about health screening and positive test protocols so districts can be good partners in the contact tracing aspect of managing COVID-19.

Feedback:

- DPH is developing a training program with Eastern Kentucky University environmentalists to give local health department staff more training, so they can be more helpful when working with districts.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12): Task Force Discussion

Presenters: Lt. Gov. Jaqueline Coleman, Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Guidance from DPH is now the flagship document that informs all the others. The document was introduced during the governor's press conference on June 24. A memorandum also was issued that day informing districts of an executive order allowing districts to use unlimited NTI days when designing their calendars. Funding issues were addressed in the memorandum to allow districts to educate students in the school building or remotely. Temporarily, funding will not be dictated by where the students are learning.

Question: Are school nurses able to make the determination if children are not well, in addition to the 100.4 degree temperature? Is there confirmation that school nurses can be funded through Medicaid?

Answer: Districts are encouraged to develop protocols around health assessment activities, so students are best served. Medicaid and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds can be used to hire school nurses. Licensed practical nurses or seasoned nurse assistants can help, but they must be supervised by a registered nurse within the district. School nurses have been asked to develop checklists for teachers to use when assessing students in the classroom.

Question: Will school nurses test students for COVID-19?

Answer: School nurses will not test students or staff for COVID-19. School nurses will assess symptoms and recommend students or staff to their healthcare provider or to the local health department.

Question: Will a medical statement be required for a student to return to school after testing positive for COVID-19?

Answer: The health department will release the student after their self-isolation. Alternatively, a healthcare provider could also provide a release. The CDC guidance provides some timelines around children returning to school, depending on the symptoms. Nearly all local boards have policies in place for controlling infectious diseases, so districts should consult their local policies.

Question: The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) sports medicine chair detailed his knowledge of upcoming revisions to CDC guidance on quarantine (from 14 days to 10), and on shields, stating they are more effective than originally thought. Does DPH have any knowledge of this upcoming change or alternative?

Answer: Currently DPH officials are not aware of changes yet but will follow CDC recommendations. If new information is received from CDC, DPH will pass it along to KDE and release revised guidelines.

Question: There is a lot of confusion about the value of taking temperatures as students and staff enter the building. Is the benefit worth the risks, costs and logistical challenges?

Answer: Fever is one of the most consistent COVID-19 symptoms people exhibit if they show symptoms and precedes more severe symptoms.

Question: Is it possible to implement a compact with families to ensure an acceptable temperature check?

Answer: KDE is working with Infinite Campus to explore the possibility of an electronic parent assurance document. If parents sign the document, they assure they will not put their children on the bus with a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Review and Adjournment

Presenter: Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Brown thanked everyone for their participation on this task force and for their work to support their groups. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2020, 1-3 p.m. ET. Group members should send feedback or questions to [Commissioner Brown](#) or [Karen Dodd](#).