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# English Learner Updates Newsletter: COVID-19 Edition (6)

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Information and Updates from the California Department of Education (CDE)  
English Learner Support Division

*Issue 8, May 8, 2020*

## **Weekly Format:**

This is the eighth of a **special series of COVID-19 English Learner (EL) Updates Newsletters focusing on school closures and services for English learners**. This newsletter will be disseminated **weekly** to keep you informed of new resources and guidance for supporting the English learners you serve.

## **This Issue Includes:**

### **Funding:**

- Transferring state and local funds
- Repurposing federal equipment and supplies to combat COVID-19
- Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) executive order frequently asked questions (FAQs)

**School Closures:** New news releases from the CDE on learning loss and plans for reopening

### **Webinars:**

- **May 11, 2020:** How to Support Young English Learners at Home with Language and Literacy Development webinar
- **May 13, 2020:** Lesson Planning for English Learners in Distance Learning Environments: Secondary Educators webinar
- **May 14, 2020:** Distance Learning English Language Development (ELD) and Dual Language Instruction (DLI) webinar

### **Resources:**

- Virtual support group for parents
- Statewide benefit program to help food insecure students during coronavirus pandemic
- Links to resources on the CDE COVID-19 web page relevant to English learners

## Funding

### Transferring State and Local Funds

From the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Fact sheet, dated April 29, 2020:

Both the State educational agency (SEA) and local educational agency (LEA) have flexibility to transfer funds from one program to another.

Section 5103(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) permits an LEA to transfer funds from the following programs:

- Title II, Part A—Supporting effective instruction state grants; and
- Title IV, Part A—Student support and academic enrichment grants.

Section 5103(b) allows an LEA to transfer local funds from the programs listed above to any of the following programs:

- Title I, Part A—Improving basic programs operated by LEAs;
- Title I, Part C—Education of migratory children;
- Title I, Part D—Prevention and intervention programs for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk;
- Title II, Part A—Supporting effective instruction state grants;
- Title III, Part A—State grants for English language acquisition and language enhancement;
- Title IV, Part A—Student support and academic enrichment grants; and
- Title V, Part B—Rural education.

An LEA may transfer all or a portion of funds allocated under Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A. Like SEAs, an LEA may transfer funds at any point during the 27-month period of availability of the grant into a grant award for the same fiscal year (for example, a transfer from fiscal year [FY] 2018 Title II, Part A funds into the LEA's FY 2018 Title IV, Part A funds). An LEA may only transfer funds into a program for which that LEA is receiving an allocation.

When an LEA decides to transfer some or all of the funds allocated for local activities under the two eligible programs, it must take certain steps. The LEA must:

- (1) Engage in timely and meaningful consultation, in accordance with Section 8501 of the ESEA, with appropriate private school officials (5103[e][2]);
- (2) Determine the program(s) from which funds are to be transferred and to which funds are to be transferred;
- (3) Determine the amount, and federal fiscal year, of funds to be transferred;
- (4) Establish the effective date for the transfer;

- (5) Notify the SEA of each transfer at least 30 days before the effective date of the transfer (5103[d][2][C]); and
- (6) Submit, not later than 30 days after the date of such transfer, a copy of the LEA's modified plans or applications for all programs affected by the transfer to the SEA (5103[d][2][B]).

The complete ED Fact Sheet for Transferring State-and Local-Level Funds (Section 5103 of the ESEA), April 29, 2020, is available on the ED website at <https://bit.ly/EDTransferringFunds>.

### *Repurposing Federal Equipment and Supplies to Combat COVID-19*

From the ED Fact sheet, dated April 29, 2020:

Generally, equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds may only be used to carry out the purposes of the federal program for which they were purchased and for intended beneficiaries. See 2 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 200.403(a). Due to extensive school closures as a result of COVID-19, much of the equipment and supplies is expected to remain unused until the federal programs for which they were purchased resume normal activities. In the meantime, the equipment and supplies could potentially be used to facilitate remote learning.

To assist grantees and subgrantees of ED programs in combatting the impact of COVID-19 on the learning environment, the ED is providing grantees and subgrantees an exception, as authorized by Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-20-203 and under 2 C.F.R. § 200.102, to the allowable cost requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(a).

**For temporary use**, grantees and subgrantees may repurpose federally purchased equipment and supplies that are not currently in use to carry out an ED grant program to meet the general education needs of students, including students with disabilities and English learners, and the instructional needs of teachers, related services providers, and other educational personnel during the national emergency caused by COVID-19. For example, an LEA might distribute unused laptops that it purchased to provide academic enrichment in its paused before- and after-school program to assist students in accessing online instruction in their home. This authority is temporary during the national emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**When the national emergency ends, schools reopen, and students once again begin attending schools in person, the equipment and supplies that are not consumed must be returned for use in the ED grant programs for which they were purchased.**

To take advantage of this flexibility, grantees and subgrantees must clearly mark the equipment and supplies being repurposed with pertinent identifying information. In addition, grantees and subgrantees must maintain an inventory of the equipment and supplies being repurposed to facilitate proper return, including the following:

- (1) A description and itemization of the type of equipment or supplies being temporarily repurposed.

- (2) The source (federal program[s] funds involved) from which the temporarily repurposed equipment or supplies were purchased and the amount of federal funds used for the purchase.
- (3) Where the equipment or supplies are assigned for use during the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency.
- (4) The date on which the equipment or non-consumed supplies are returned for federal program purposes.

This authority does not permit grantees and subgrantees to use unobligated ED grant funds to purchase new equipment and supplies for purposes not aligned with the allowable activities of the program under which funds are available.

For further information and details about the requirements for repurposing equipment, see the ED Fact Sheet for Repurposing Federal Equipment and Supplies to Combat COVID-19, dated April 29, 2020, available on the ED website at <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/covid19-repurposing-equipment-supplies.pdf>.

If you have questions about this exception as it relates to Title III or Title I, Part C, please contact the English Learner Support Division by phone at 916-319-0938 or by email at [ELSD@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELSD@cde.ca.gov).

If you have other questions about this exception, please contact the CDE at [COVID19@cde.ca.gov](mailto:COVID19@cde.ca.gov).

### **LCAP Executive Order FAQs**

The CDE released new LCAP executive order FAQs regarding changes to the 2020–21 budget and LCAP in response to COVID-19.

#### *Highlighted LCAP Executive Order FAQs:*

**Question:** Why was the LCAP due date changed for the 2020–21 school year?

**Answer:** Given the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact California's response has had on an LEA's ability to meaningfully engage with stakeholders, Executive Order N-56-20 was established. This executive order extended the deadline for adopting the 2020–21 LCAP from July 1, 2020, to December 15, 2020.

**Question:** Why is the LCAP for the 2020–21 school year due on December 15, 2020?

**Answer:** The December 15, 2020, due date is consistent with an LEA's requirement to complete a first interim budget report.

- School districts and county offices of education must complete first interim reports on or before December 15 of each year.
- A charter school is required to submit a first interim budget report to its chartering authority and the county office of education on or before December 15 of each year.

- By completing the 2020–21 LCAP in conjunction with the first interim budget report for FY 2020–21, LEAs will have an opportunity to develop the LCAP in alignment with a more informed understanding of the 2020–21 school year budget.

**Question:** Do LEAs still have to adopt a 2020–21 budget on or before July 1, 2020?

**Answer:** Yes. The deadline to adopt a budget for the 2020–21 FY was not delayed. The budget approval and oversight process has not changed.

- School districts and county offices of education must adopt a budget on or before July 1 of each year (*California Education Code [EC] Section 42127* and *EC Section 1622*, respectively).
- Charter schools must submit a budget to its chartering authority and the county office of education on or before July 1 of each year (*EC Section 47604.33*).

**Question:** Is the Budget Overview for Parents still required with the 2020–21 LCAP?

**Answer:** Yes. Consistent with Executive Order N-56-20, the deadline for the Budget Overview for Parents has been extended to December 15, 2020, and must be submitted with the 2020–21 LCAP.

For additional FAQs, including information about the COVID-19 Operations Written Report due July 1, 2020, visit the CDE LCAP Executive Order FAQs web page at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/lcapfaq.asp>.

## School Closures

### State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Creates New Committee on Learning Loss

On April 29, 2020, State Superintendent Thurmond announced the formation of a new committee to take an in-depth look at the impact of COVID-19 on student learning in public schools and how solutions identified now can be used to support innovations moving forward.

For more information on this new committee, please see the April 29, 2020, CDE News Release at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel28.asp>.

### State Superintendent Thurmond Working with School Leaders on Schools Reopening

On April 29, 2020, State Superintendent Thurmond announced that he is working with groups of leaders throughout California and the nation to study in-depth questions that must be answered, and what measures must be in place, before it is determined whether schools can safely re-open.

For more information on this working group, please see the April 29, 2020, CDE News Release at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel27.asp>.

## Webinars

### How to Support Young English Learners at Home with Language and Literacy Development

**Date:** May 11, 2020, 4 p.m.

**Description:** This is the first in a webinar series on supporting English learners during distance learning hosted by the California Teachers Association (CTA), Region 15 Comprehensive Center, and the CDE. Language and literacy are critical for young students to develop in the first few years of school. Now that schools are operating in distance learning environments, it is essential to involve families in supporting language and literacy development at home. In this webinar, teachers, coaches and administrators will receive guidance, resources and activities that can be shared with families and caregivers to strengthen language and literacy development with English learners at home.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- The need for home-school connections during distance learning
- The importance of early language and literacy development
- Recommendations and activities for families and caregivers of young English learners to develop language and literacy at home

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarMay11>

### Lesson Planning for English Learners in Distance Learning Environments: Secondary Educators

**Date:** May 13, 2020, 4 p.m.

**Description:** This is the second in a webinar series on supporting English learners during distance learning hosted by the CTA, Region 15 Comprehensive Center, and the CDE. Distance learning experiences that promote conceptual and linguistic development for English learners require a shift in teacher expertise and instructional design. This webinar will demonstrate how secondary educators can adapt and implement lessons in a distance learning environment that promote rigor and high levels of support. Participants will learn how to plan appropriate scaffolds for students engaging with subject-matter content in synchronous, asynchronous and no-tech environments.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Integrating activities that encourage students to discuss, argue and analyze rigorous grade level texts
- Grouping students to optimize instruction
- Providing options for synchronous and asynchronous learning

**Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarMay13>

## **Distance Learning English Language Development and Dual Language Instruction Webinar**

**Date:** May 14, 2020, 1 p.m.

**Description:** The CDE English Learner Support Division will host a webinar on how to provide ELD and DLI during distance learning. This webinar will highlight one district that has implemented an effective distance learning ELD program and one that has implemented an effective DLI program. By highlighting these districts, LEAs will have the opportunity to see the CDE guidance in action in these model programs.

Register in advance for this webinar:

**Link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fxeZf6WUQJu5kfpgNJkw2w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fxeZf6WUQJu5kfpgNJkw2w)

## **COVID-19 Resources and Information**

### **State Superintendent Thurmond Begins Virtual Support Group for Parents**

State Superintendent Thurmond hosted an online panel of mental health and education experts this month to kick-start a Virtual Parent Circle that aims to reach out and hear directly from parents across California. The support group encourages parents to do their best and shares resources and supports for parents as they cope with distance learning challenges and economic uncertainty.

The event featured California Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris and parents from the Parent Teacher Association and the Parent Institute for Quality Education. Californians Together also provided resources for parents in multiple languages.

This event is the first of many planned for the Virtual Parent Support Circle series. The panel for the new Virtual Parent Support Circle can be watched via Facebook Live on the CDE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation>.

### **State Superintendent Thurmond Announces New Statewide Benefit Program to Help Food Insecure Students during Coronavirus Pandemic**

On April 29, 2020, State Superintendent Thurmond announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a new food assistance program for children throughout the state who are living in households struggling with food insecurity. The new Pandemic Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) program provides electronic food benefits to families equal to the value of meals children eligible for free or reduced-price meals would have received at school.

Each eligible child in the household will receive \$5.70 per day for each day of the month in which school was cancelled due to COVID-19, for a total of up to \$365 per eligible child. The program will provide an estimated \$1.4 billion toward the feeding of school children throughout the state during this public health emergency.

Eligible students will be identified through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). Through an executive order approved by Governor Gavin Newsom, the CDE

was able to share CALPADS data with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to expedite the benefit distribution process.

The CDSS will automatically issue P-EBT benefits to children who were directly certified for free or reduced-price meals without an application and appear in the CALPADS data. P-EBT cards will arrive in the mail for these households beginning in early May. Children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through the meal application process must apply for P-EBT benefits online in late May. Online applications will be accepted through June 30, 2020, and eligible families will receive benefits retroactively as long as they apply before June 30, 2020. More information about the online application will be available soon.

Students who receive P-EBT benefits are still eligible to receive meals at COVID-19 emergency sites and may continue to receive CalFresh food benefits if eligible.

For more information about P-EBT, visit the CDSS P-EBT informational web page at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>.

For updated information about COVID-19 emergency meals, please visit the CDE COVID-19 School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp>.

### **Links to Resources Relevant to English Learners on the CDE COVID-19 Web Page**

Please visit the CDE Coronavirus (COVID-19) web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/500393> for the latest updates on information and resources regarding COVID-19 and California's response

- **COVID-19 Guidance for K–12 Schools** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/guidance.asp>

Links on this web page include resources for distance learning, school meals, special education guidance, and child care and student supervision.

- **Getting Internet Access: Available Plans** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>

This web page provides a list of internet providers, including those offering free internet, with links to their web pages for more information.

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Webinars** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/499850>

This web page provides links to all CDE webinars related to COVID-19 including the recorded April 9, 2020, English Learner Support Strategies webinar.

**For questions regarding English learner programs and services, please contact the English Learner Support Division by email at [ELSD@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELSD@cde.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0938. You may also visit the CDE English Learners web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/>.**

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