COVID 19 Questions and Answers
High School Programs

During this time of uncertainty with information continually changing and updated, this document is intended to help answer questions related to high school programming in the state of Tennessee. As new questions surface, this Q and A will continue to evolve.

EPSO | STATEWIDE DUAL CREDIT

1. Will Statewide Dual Credit (SDC) testing occur this spring?
The department, in conjunction with TBR, will not be offering SDC testing this spring. The state legislature has waived the statute related to end of course testing which includes SDC challenge exams.

2. Will students have an opportunity to test in order to bank postsecondary credit with a passing score?
The department, in conjunction with TBR, will offer students an opportunity to test this upcoming fall. TBR will work with schools directly to create testing rosters during July and August and the testing window will be open from September 1-30, 2020. Additionally, review materials will be provided in August for students and teachers to prepare prior to the testing window.

3. Do all students enrolled in SDC courses for the 2019-2020 school year have to test in September?
No, not all students enrolled in SDC courses during the 2019-2020 school year must test. Only students who would like the chance to earn postsecondary credit with a passing score will need to test in September.

4. Do graduating seniors need to come back to test at the high school where they were enrolled?
No. Graduating seniors may either take the test at the high school they were enrolled, or they can test at the closest community college or TCAT.

5. When will we learn more details about the optional testing in September?
The EPSO team will start communicating with districts throughout the rest of the spring and summer with testing logistics for students who wish to test.

6. Will the cancellation of SDC testing impact graduation requirements?
The State Board of Education has a special session for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to SDC and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy. Students will still earn the high school credit for their SDC course even without taking the exam.

7. Will the cancellation of SDC testing impact Ready Graduate?
The cancellation of SDC testing will not impact Ready Graduate for 2020-2021. A student’s enrollment and completion of the course will earn them an EPSO for Ready Graduate.
8. **Will school closures impact SDC teacher training?**

School closures will not impact SDC teacher training. Schools have until April 17, 2020 to register their teachers for the SDC courses they will be teaching. We will use information collected from that registration to send the virtual SDC teacher training out in June.

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**EPSO | ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

9. **Will AP testing occur this spring?**

AP testing will occur. There will be a testing window in May and a testing window in June that College Board has released as of April 3, 2020. College Board is offering at-home testing for all AP courses. You can learn more [here](#) on the College Board website.

10. **What accommodations are being made for students who do not have access to an electronic device or internet to take the AP exam at home?**

College Board is working to ensure all students have access to the equipment and connectivity needed to take AP exams at home. They have asked school leaders, teachers, parents or students to reach out to College Board directly [here](#) to access the resources needed for testing.

11. **What content will be covered on the modified AP tests?**

College Board has outlined the units and content to be covered on each AP test [here](#).

12. **Is there any additional instructional support for teachers and students?**

College Board has developed a suite of resources for teachers [here](#) and students [here](#) to prepare new content for students or resources that students can access now including YouTube live lessons taught by AP teachers every day.

13. **Will the modified AP testing impact graduation requirements?**

The State Board of Education has a special session for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to AP and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy. Students will still earn the high school credit for their AP course even without taking the exam.

14. **Will the modified AP testing impact Ready Graduate?**

The cancellation of AP testing will not impact Ready Graduate for 2020-2021. A student's enrollment and completion of the AP course will earn them an EPSO for Ready Graduate.

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**EPSO | INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**

15. **Will IB testing occur this year?**

IB has cancelled testing for this spring. You can learn more [here](#). IB will be communicating directly with schools that have an IB program with more specifics on how cancelled testing will impact IB diplomas and career-related programs.
16. **Will the cancelled IB testing impact graduation requirements?**

The State Board of Education has a special session scheduled for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to IB and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy. Students will still earn the high school credit for their IB course even without taking the exam.

17. **Will the cancelled IB testing impact Ready Graduate?**

The cancellation of IB testing will not impact Ready Graduate for 2020-2021. A student's enrollment and completion of the IB course will earn them an EPSO for Ready Graduate.

**EPSO | CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAM**

18. **Will Cambridge testing occur this year?**

Cambridge has cancelled testing for this spring. You can learn more [here](#).

19. **Will the cancelled Cambridge testing impact graduation requirements?**

The State Board of Education has a special session scheduled for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to IB and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy. Students will still earn the high school credit for their Cambridge course even without taking the exam.

20. **Will the cancelled Cambridge testing impact Ready Graduate?**

The cancellation of Cambridge testing will not impact Ready Graduate for 2020-2021. A student's enrollment and completion of the Cambridge course will earn them an EPSO for Ready Graduate.

**EPSO | DUAL ENROLLMENT AND LOCAL DUAL CREDIT**

21. **Will students earn DE credit and LDC with our postsecondary partner?**

Districts or schools will need to work proactively with the postsecondary partner(s) with whom they have an articulation agreement for DE and/or LDC to be able to inform students and their families about the status of finishing the course and earning postsecondary credit.

22. **Will students still earn high school credit for their DE and/or LDC courses?**

The State Board of Education has a special session scheduled for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to DE and LDC and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy. Students will still earn the high school credit for their DE and LDC course.

23. **Will missed instructional time impact earning an EPSO for Ready Graduate in DE or LDC courses?**

Missed instructional time will not impact earning an EPSO credit for Ready Graduate.

24. **Will a missed LDC exam impact earning high school credit for graduation?**

The State Board of Education has a special session scheduled for April 9, 2020 where they will amend policy as it relates to DE and LDC and any graduation requirements and/or the uniform grading policy.
Students will still earn the high school credit for their LDC for completing the course without the LDC exam.

25. Will a missed LDC exam impact earning an EPSO for Ready Graduate?
Missing the LDC exam because of school or postsecondary closure will not impact earning an EPSO for Ready Graduate.

26. What happens if my students’ CLEP testing voucher has expired?
College Board is allowing students with expired vouchers to take their CLEP exam at a different date between now and June 30, 2021. Click here for more information.

27. What happens if the CLEP testing center is closed?
The CLEP testing centers are currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. College Board has provided additional guidance here on how to find another testing date and/or testing site for CLEP exams.

28. What should I do if my school is a CLEP testing site?
College Board has not suspended CLEP testing but has provided guidance for testing sites here. College Board is asking testing sites to follow guidelines set by the CDC for group gatherings.

29. What if my students cannot use the voucher my district or school purchased for CLEP testing?
If students cannot test because of school closures and/or they cannot get to an alternative test site before June 30, 2020, then their voucher will be cancelled, and the school will not be invoiced. If the student wants to use the CLEP voucher purchased for the 2019-2020 school year after the June 30, 2020 deadline, they will need to re-register using the same voucher code. More information about vouchers can be found here.

30. Are the Tennessee Specific Industry Certifications (TSIC) Exams required?
No, individual schools sign up to participate in the TSIC exams, which is an optional Ready Graduate Indicator. Schools submit an annual Memorandum of Understanding and content teachers participate in training annually to become eligible to participate, but the TSIC exams are not a requirement.

31. We have scheduled our TSIC practice exam(s) and certification exam(s), but our school will not be open on those dates, what do we do?
By request, TDOE will reschedule the practice exam and the certification exam(s) based on the individual school's discretion. Each school should send the new practice exam or certification exam dates along with the name of the TSIC exam(s) and school name to TSIC.Exams@tn.gov to schedule a new testing time(s).
32. **I have not received the Spring TSIC testing student log-in information?**

All TSIC testing information for accessing the testing platform will be sent at least three days before the initially scheduled practice exam date to the school’s testing coordinator/proctor(s) who submitted their proctor acknowledgment information.

33. **My school has gone to online courses for the rest of the school year, can we still offer the TSIC exams?**

Yes, the exam must be proctored for the student to receive postsecondary credit. All schools registered to administer one of the TSIC exam during the Spring 2020 testing window will have until Oct. 1, 2020 to complete the exam. The TSIC Coordinator/Proctor will need to contact TSIC.Exams@tn.gov with new times and dates.

34. **My school is not offering in-person or online course for the rest of the year, can we still offer the TSIC exams?**

Yes, the Spring 2020 TSIC testing window has been extended until Oct. 1, 2020. TSIC Coordinator/Proctor will need to submit the name of the TSIC exam, time, and date to TSIC.Exams@tn.gov. We recommend that you follow your local education agency policy.

35. **Can a student take the TSIC exam at home?**

No. The TSIC exam must be given in a proctored environment for postsecondary and credentialing requirements. The school may select an alternative testing location, but the exam must be proctored by an approved TSIC Coordinator/Proctor.

36. **How do I contact with questions about the TSIC exams?**

All questions should be sent to TSIC.Exams@tn.gov.

**CTE | PERKINS REQUIREMENTS**

37. **Will there be an extension to the 2019-20 Perkins Basic funding period?**

No. There are no provisions which allow local carry- or roll-over of Perkins Basic funds after the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline. The Department has requested a waiver from the US Department of Education for additional flexibility regarding the period of availability and will update this guidance based on the response from the US Department of Education.

38. **Can I submit a plan or budget revision for a current 2019-20 Perkins Basic?**

Yes. The Department encourages districts to utilize as much of awarded Perkins Basic funding as possible prior to the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline and in accordance with the approved Perkins Basic plan. Please work with the regional CTE CORE Consultant to submit any necessary application or budget revisions in ePlan. The department will be as flexible as possible when reviewing
submitted revisions to allow utilization of these funds.

39. What are the requirements for submitting Perkins Basic plan or budget revisions?
Districts are required to expend a minimum of 5% of the annual Perkins Basic allocation on educator professional development. There are no other minimum requirements for Perkins Basic expenditures.

Districts may not expend more than 20% of the annual Perkins Basic allocation on career and technical student organizations (CTSO); more than 5% of the annual Perkins Basic allocation on activities for administration of the grant; 5% of the annual Perkins Basic allocation on equipment maintenance; and no 2019-20 Perkins Basic funds should be expended on consumable items.

40. Are there changes to the deadlines for the 2019-20 CTE Concentrator data reporting?
Yes. As required by the Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006 (Perkins IV), each district must conduct a follow-up survey on all CTE concentrators who graduated the previous school year. This is the last year of the Perkins IV reporting for the core indicator of performance 5S1 for where concentrators have gone after graduation - whether to postsecondary/advanced training, military, or employment. The Department has extended the deadline to submit this information in eTIGER to 11:59 p.m. CT May 1, 2020.

Any additional changes to the deadlines for the 2019-20 CTE Concentrator data reporting will be shared in the CTE Director Update and College & Career Readiness Update once information is available.

41. Can Perkins funds be used to refund students for registration fees or other costs associated with cancelled career and technical student organization (CTSO) events?
No. Perkins funds may not be used for this purpose. The Department is committed to refunding these costs and has requested a waiver from the US Department of Education for additional flexibility regarding this. The Department will update this guidance based on the response from the US Department of Education.

CTE | PERKINS RESERVE GRANT
42. Will there be an extension to the 2019-20 Perkins Reserve Grant period?
No. There are no provisions which allow local carry- or roll-over of Perkins Reserve Grant funds after the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline. The Department has requested a waiver from the US Department of Education for additional flexibility regarding the period of availability and will update this guidance based on the response from the US Department of Education.

43. Can I submit a budget revision for a current 2019-20 Perkins Reserve Grant?
Yes. The Department encourages districts to utilize as much of awarded Perkins Reserve Grant funding as possible prior to the June 30, 2020 grant period end date and in accordance with the approved
Perkins Reserve Grant application. Please work with the regional CTE CORE Consultant to submit any necessary application or budget revisions for 2019-20 Perkins Reserve Grant awards in ePlan. The department will be as flexible as possible when reviewing submitted budget revisions to allow utilization of these funds.

44. **My district was awarded Perkins Reserve funds to purchase industry certification exams, what if my students are unable to take the industry certification test and how do I submit the Perkins Reserve Grant reimbursement request documentation in this situation?**

As mentioned above, the Department encourages districts to utilize as much of the awarded Perkins Reserve Grant funding as possible prior to the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline. This includes the purchase and utilization of industry certification exam vouchers.

If students are unable to attempt the industry certification exam prior to the June 30, 2020 period of availability end date, then districts should mark these as “Incomplete” in the Perkins Reserve Grant reimbursement request documentation and submit to CTE.Questions@tn.gov as normal. Districts will be required to resubmit this documentation updating each “incomplete” with the required pass or fail information after the student attempts the industry certification exam. Students must attempt the industry certification exam prior to the end of the 2020-21 school year and all updated documentation must be resubmitted prior to **June 30, 2021**.

45. **Are there changes to the deadlines for the 2020-21 Perkins Reserve Grant application?**

Yes. The 2020-21 Perkins Reserve Grant Notice of Intent to Apply deadline remains 11:59 pm CT **April 14, 2020**. The Notice of Intent to Apply form can be accessed [here](#). The Perkins Reserve Grant application will open in ePlan on April 15, 2020 and the deadline to submit is extended until 11:59 pm CT **June 1, 2020**.

46. **Are there other changes to the 2020-21 Perkins Reserve Grant application?**

Yes. The following changes will be made to the Regional Career Pathways focus area of the Perkins Reserve Grant:

- All districts are eligible to apply for funding for the Regional Career Pathways focus area.
- Regional Career Pathways proposals must include plans to either expand access to Certified Pathways (if the district has already earned the Certification) or submit new application(s) for Certified Pathways.

Please see the question regarding the Certified Tennessee Pathways deadline extension below for additional information regarding this change.

CTE | INSTITUTE FOR CTE EDUCATORS
47. **Will there be a 2020 Institute for CTE Educators?**

Yes. The 2020 Institute for CTE Educators will be held virtually on July 20-24, 2020. More information and
plans for the 2020 Institute for CTE Educators will be shared on the CTE Educators Resource page as soon as possible.

48. Will there be a cost to attend the 2020 Institute for CTE Educators?
No. There is no fee to attend the annual Institute for CTE Educators for educators in public school systems.

49. I would like to present at this year’s Institute for CTE Educators, where can I submit my presentation proposal?
We will be opening the call for presentations site in mid-April 2020. Check out the CTE Educators Resource page for links to register and submit a presentation.

50. Where can I learn more about the virtual sessions offered during the 2020 Institute for CTE Educators?
Registration will be opening in April 2020. Check out the CTE Educators Resource page for links to register and submit a presentation.

CTE | QUARTERLY CTE DIRECTOR MEETINGS

51. Will we reschedule the 2020 Spring CTE Director Meeting?
Yes. The 2020 Spring CTE Director Meeting will be rescheduled as a virtual convening later this spring. The new date, agenda, and connection instructions will be shared via the weekly CTE Director communications and in the April College & Career Readiness Update. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates here.

52. Where will the 2020 Summer CTE Director Meeting be held?
The 2020 Summer CTE Director Meeting will be held virtually. Meeting agenda and connection instructions will be shared via the weekly CTE Director communications and in the May College & Career Readiness Update. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates here.

53. When will meeting dates for the 2020-21 CTE Director Meetings be available?
The calendar for 2020-21 CTE Director meeting schedule will be available in the summer of 2020. This information will be shared with CTE Directors in communications and the monthly College & Career Readiness Update. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates here.

ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | TENNESSEE PATHWAYS

54. Is the Tennessee Pathways Certification deadline still April 15, 2020?
No, the application process will be delayed until the fall semester 2020. Instead, we encourage all districts to work with their schools and partners to submit proposals for Regional Career Pathways focus area of the Perkins Reserve Grant. For technical assistance, please feel free to contact your Pathways Regional Coordinator.
ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | STEM

55. **Will the Tennessee STEM School Designations be awarded this year?**
Yes. Schools will be notified by May 1, 2020 if they earned the Tennessee STEM School Designation. Schools will still receive their banners and will be formally recognized at the Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit that is rescheduled for May 2021.

ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | DISTRICT-POSTSECONDARY PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

56. **Will districts and postsecondary partners still host joint events to help students enroll in college?**
   
   No, all events planned for this spring are canceled. With that said, Pathways Regional Coordinators are still available to support coordination and collaboration among schools and college partners. If you have questions or requests for support, please contact Molly.I.Knowlton@tn.gov.

ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

57. **What are the options for juniors to take the ACT?**
   
   Following ACT’s [announcement](#) of the spring 2020 testing date cancellations, the department is working closely with ACT to provide flexible testing opportunities so that all students in the 2021 cohort will have two opportunities to take the ACT. Current juniors will be eligible to receive vouchers for the June and July national test dates and schools may offer closed testing for their students in June or July. Please review the [ACT Guidance for Districts and Schools](#) (Updated April 3) for details.

58. **Will the department be providing guidance on graduation requirements and waivers for current seniors?**
   
   The State Board of Education will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2020. We will provide relevant updates on a weekly basis regarding flexibility for graduation requirements as soon as they are available.

For any additional questions or clarifications, please contact Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov.