

# 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 or additional guidance is created, this Q and A will be updated.

### 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?**

No, the cancellation of SDC testing will not impact graduation requirements. 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.

#### **EPSO | ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

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

AP testing will occur. There will be a testing window in May and a make-up testing window in June. 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?**

No, the modification of AP testing will not impact graduation requirements. 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 modification 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.

#### **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?**

No, the cancellation of IB testing will not impact graduation requirements. 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?**

No, the cancellation of Cambridge testing will not impact graduation requirements. 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?**

Yes, abbreviated DE/LDC courses due to school closures or DE/LDC courses that are finished online will count for high school credit and the aligned graduation requirement.

**23. How should districts record grades for DE courses that are continuing online with the postsecondary partner?**

Districts should follow the updated State Board of Education's policies for DE grades for high school GPA and graduation requirements. The department is working with TBR, THEC, UT, and TICUA to address any potential issues with articulating credit to postsecondary.

**24. 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.

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

No, the cancellation of LDC testing will not impact graduation requirements. Students will still earn the high school credit for their LDC course even without taking the exam.

**26. 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.

## EPSO | CLEP

**27. 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.

**28. 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.

**29. 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.

**30. 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](#).

## EPSO | TENNESSEE SPECIFIC INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

**31. 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.

**32. 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](mailto:TSIC.Exams@tn.gov) to schedule a new testing time(s).

**33. 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.

**34. 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. The Spring 2020 testing window has been extended until Oct. 1, 2020 to compete. The TSIC Coordinator/Proctor will need to contact [TSIC.Exams@tn.gov](mailto:TSIC.Exams@tn.gov) with new times and dates.

**35. 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](mailto:TSIC.Exams@tn.gov). We recommend that you follow your local education agency policy.

**36. 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.

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

All questions should be sent to [TSIC.Exams@tn.gov](mailto:TSIC.Exams@tn.gov).

## CTE | PERKINS REQUIREMENTS AND CTE PROGRAMS

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

No, there are no provisions which allow local carry-over or roll-over of Perkins Basic funds after the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline.

The Department will reallocate local funds which are unexpended by June 30, 2020 back to districts using the Perkins Basic formula in the 2020-21 school year. This practice is commonly known as the "Tydings Amendment," and allows the State to reallocate unexpended funds from one fiscal year in subsequent years. The Tydings Amendment is a state level provision.

**39. 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.

**40. 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.

**41. 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.

**42. *Can Perkins funds be used to refund students for registration fees or other costs associated with cancelled career and technical student organization (CTSO) events?***

The Department is committed to refunding all costs associated with the cancellation of CTSO events and is exploring every available option to do so. At this time, Perkins funding may not be used to refund or reimburse student registration fees or additional fees, such as entertainment or add-on costs related to planned activities at the conference. The Department has requested additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Education on this topic and will update our guidance as new information is available.

**43. *Can Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, gowns, etc.), or other supplies, and equipment from CTE programs which were purchased with Perkins funds be donated or loaned to public health agencies?***

Yes, per guidance previously released by the Department and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education ([here](#)), items such as, PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, face shields, gowns), other medical supplies or equipment (e.g., ventilators), or equipment that may be used to produce medical supplies (e.g., three dimensional printers) not currently needed for program activities, may be donated or loaned to public health agencies and/or licensed private nonprofit hospitals or health providers in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**44. *May Perkins funds continue to pay the compensation of an employee if the employee is unable to work or during school closures due to COVID-19? Can Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, gowns, etc.), or other supplies, and equipment from CTE programs which were purchased with Perkins funds be donated or loaned to public health agencies?***

Yes, per guidance released by US. Department of Education ([here](#)), compensation (including but not necessarily limited to salaries, wages, and fringe benefits) for employees who are currently paid by Perkins may continue to be paid under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances, such as a public health emergency like COVID-19. As a reminder, districts should continue to adhere to all local, state, and federal policies and procedures for paying compensation from Perkins.

**45. *My district purchased industry certification exams with Perkins Basic funding, what if my students are unable to take the industry certification test this school year?***

The Department encourages districts to utilize as much of the awarded Perkins Basic 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 a student is unable to attempt the industry certification exam prior to the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline, then the district should work with the industry certification testing vendor to test students at the first available opportunity but no later than the end of the 2020-21 school year.

## CTE | PERKINS RESERVE GRANT

### **46. 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. Funds which are not expended by June 30, 2020 will be reallocated to districts in subsequent Perkins Reserve Grants.

### **47. 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.

### **48. 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 a student is unable to attempt the industry certification exam prior to the June 30, 2020 period of availability deadline, then:

- The district should work with the industry certification testing vendor to test students at the first available opportunity but no later than the end of the 2020-21 school year.
- The district should indicate the voucher number on the Perkins Reserve Grant reimbursement request documentation, mark as "Incomplete," and submit to [CTE.Questions@tn.gov](mailto:CTE.Questions@tn.gov) as normal.
- Districts will be required to resubmit the Perkins Reserve Grant documentation prior to June 30, 2021 to update each "incomplete" with the required information after the student attempts the industry certification exam.

### **49. 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 23, 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**.

### **50. 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 | INSITUTE FOR CTE EDUCATORS

**51. 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.

**52. 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.

**53. I would like to present at this year's Institute for CTE Educators, where can I submit my presentation proposal?**

The call for presentations site is open now. Check out the [CTE Educators Resource](#) page for links to register and submit a presentation.

**54. 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

**55. Will we reschedule the 2020 Spring CTE Director Meeting?**

Yes. The 2020 Spring CTE Director Meeting will be held virtually on June 2-4, 2020. The new date, agenda, and connection instructions will be shared via the weekly CTE Director communications in April and in the April College & Career Readiness Update. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates [here](#).

**56. 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 in May and in the May College & Career Readiness Update. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates [here](#).

**57. 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 later this summer. Sign up for the College & Career Readiness updates [here](#).

#### ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | TENNESSEE PATHWAYS

**58. 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

**59. 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

**60. 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](mailto:Molly.I.Knowlton@tn.gov).

#### ARTICULATED PATHWAYS | GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

**61. 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.

**62. Will the department be providing guidance on graduation requirements and waivers for current seniors?**

The State Board of Education has updated and approved policy related to graduation requirements for this year's graduating class. Updates include requirements for calculating grades, a reduction in the number of credits required for graduation, requirements to earn the occupational diploma, updates to the ACT/SAT requirement, updates to the civics test requirement, and clarified requirements for the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program. Learn more [here](#).

For any additional questions or clarifications, please contact [Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov](mailto:Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov).