



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

July 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Usage of the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) Virtual Learning Program and the Franchise Content

In an effort to provide the best possible services during this time of COVID-19, it is important to understand the function of the ACCESS Virtual Learning Program. ACCESS—a supplementary program to fill in the areas where you do not have specific subject-matter teachers or students have scheduling problems—will be available just as it has been in the past. The ACCESS Virtual Learning Program was never intended to serve as a virtual school. Subsequently, ACCESS teachers will teach the ACCESS courses to students enrolled in their assigned schools. The Alabama State Department of Education purchased Schoology, a Learning Management System (LMS). Virtual content was purchased from SchoolsPLP and the ACCESS Franchise Model for districts to provide appropriate instruction to virtual students using system teachers. There are no limits on the number of students/teachers using this purchased content.

The ACCESS Virtual Learning Program exists through a Line Item in the ETF Budget that allocates a specific amount for the program. For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget, the ACCESS allocation is \$20,165,678, which is the same amount received for FY 2020.

After analyzing 2019-2020 requests for courses and the three-year averages of your schools' course requests, schools will be allowed to request the higher of the following with a five percent increase:

1. The number of your 2019-2020 requests.
- or**
2. The average number of requests for the last three years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020).

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The superintendent (or the superintendent's designee) will have the flexibility to adjust each school's total requests if the course requests total does not exceed the sum of the total district requests allowed for the 2020-2021 school year.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Lawrence W. Raines by telephone at 334-694-4641 or by email at lraines@alsde.edu.

To receive your allowed number of requests and make school adjustments, please contact Mr. Nuncy Rembert by email at nrembert@alsde.edu or Mr. Steve Blair by email at sblair@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4641.

EGM:LWR:LE

cc: Dr. Daniel Boyd
Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Lawrence W. Raines

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