#12 Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Educators and Coronavirus/COVID-19 – Evaluations

With schools closed due to the COVID-19 emergency, what will happen to evaluations?

On Friday, April 10, the Tennessee State Board of Education held a conference call meeting for the purpose of passing emergency rules relating to education and COVID-19.

The State Board of Education unanimously passed the following emergency rule (emphasis added):

(5) Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders of the year 2020 declaring the existence of a State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 and Public Chapter XXX of 2020, and notwithstanding paragraph three (3), level of overall effectiveness scores shall not be generated for educators in the 2019-20 school year. Any observations required by State Board Policy 5.201 that were not completed in the 2019-20 school year prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency shall not be required.

   (a) No adverse action may be taken against any student, teacher, administrator, school, or LEA based, in whole or in part, on student achievement, student performance, or student growth data generated from The Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, which include, but are not limited to, TNReady assessments, English learner assessments, alternate TCAP assessments, and end-of-course examinations, administered in the 2019-2020 school year.

   (b) Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers employed in an LEA that receives pre-kindergarten program approval under §§ 49-6-103 - 49-6-110 shall not be evaluated using the pre-K/Kindergarten growth portfolio model approved by the state board of education, or a comparable alternative measure of student growth approved by the state board of education and adopted by the LEA, for the 2019-20 school year.

   (c) Any other educator evaluated under a student growth portfolio model shall not be evaluated using that portfolio model during the 2019-20 school year.

Bottom line:
- No LOE scores generated by TNCompass for 2019-20 year
- If we go back to school in 2019-20, no classroom observations required.
- If we go back to school in 2019-20, no professionalism rubric scored.

TEA has raised several issues with the SBE and TDOE regarding the impact of this emergency rule on performance pay districts and tenure. SBE and TDOE acknowledged that additional guidance was needed on these issues.

Click here for information regarding TEA’s advocacy on evaluations.

Click here for information about the SBE emergency rule conference call.

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