

## ARCHIVE: COVID-19 Superintendent Call

June 5, 2020

The following are questions asked by directors of schools during this call and the answers provided by the department. For additional guidance and up-to-the-minute supports, please check the TDOE website for more information:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html>.

### Finance

- Question: Could you please provide an update regarding the teacher raises and any impact that will have on BEP funding?
  - **RESPONSE:** The State Board of Education approved holding the state minimum salary schedule constant from 2019-2020, leaving any adjustments to local salary schedules to the discretion of individual districts. Separately, the proposed 2% increase in the instructional salaries component of the BEP has been proposed for removal from the state budget for FY21, though it has not yet been fully passed by the General Assembly (as of 6/11/20). TDOE will release June BEP estimates both with and without this proposed cut if the budget is still pending with the legislature so districts have both projections. Outside of this proposed increase to the instructional salaries component, all elements of the BEP were fully funded for the 2020-21 school year.
- Question: Will there be a reduction in BEP funds?
  - **RESPONSE:** The Governor committed to fully funding the BEP formula, meaning no components or overall value would decrease. The currently proposed budget keeps the funding formula fully funded going into the 2020-21 school year, including growth factors for increased ADMs and inflation. Due to the economic realities facing the state and counties, the proposed 2% increase to the instructional salaries component has since been proposed for removal from the FY21 budget. The Governor remains committed to pursuing teacher raises in the future.