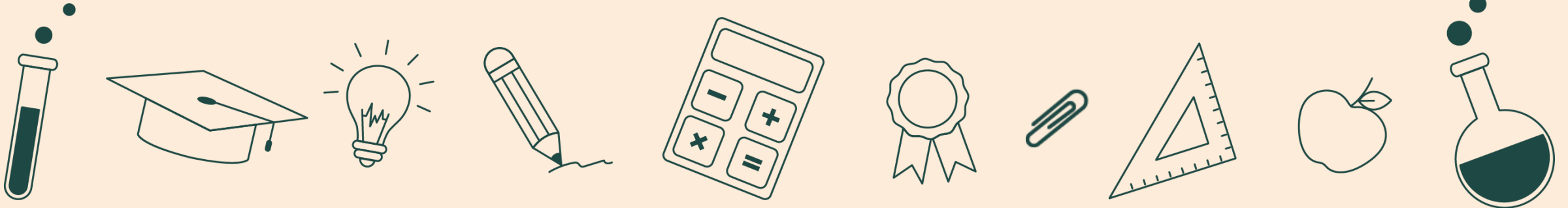




# Pandemic Planning Q&A

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia





# PANDEMIC PLANNING

- Pandemic plans are due to the SCSC by July 24, 2020
- This webinar will provide guidance to ensure that pandemic plans align to applicable legal requirements and available guidance from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and Department of Public Health (DPH).



# TOPICS COVERED



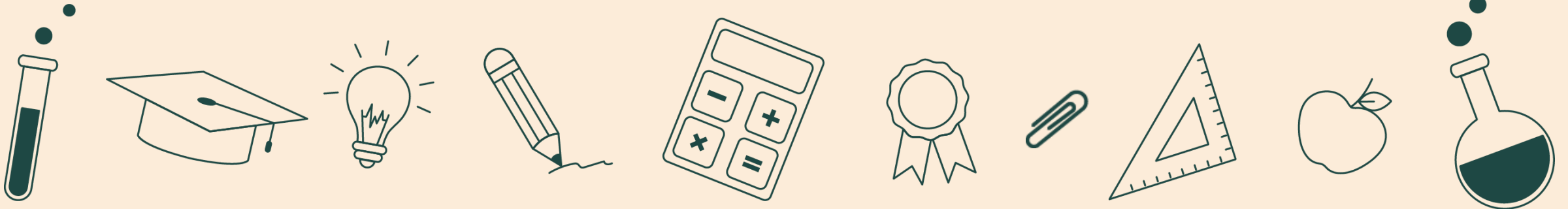
- New/Updated Guidance
- Community Spread
- Communication
- Instructional Models
- Recommended Processes and Procedures
- Policies
- Legal Compliance
- Facilities
- Meals and Transportation



# Superintendents Meeting (July 13, 2020)



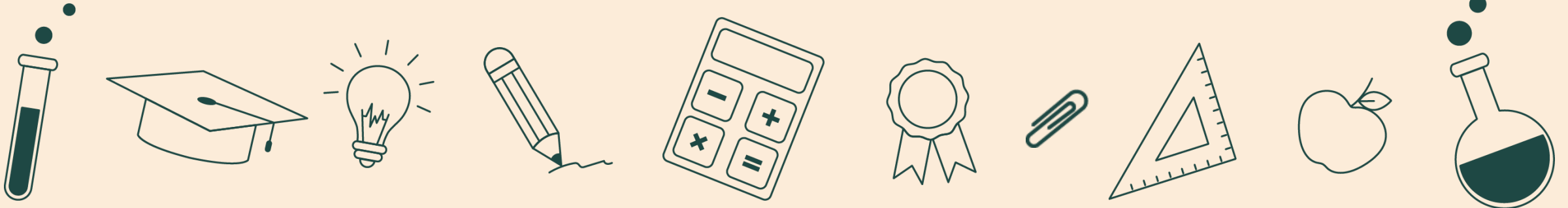
- DPH is leading contact tracing efforts.
- Cooperate with contact tracing efforts.
- Report confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- A contact list for local health departments will be disseminated.



# Meeting Recommendations (July 13, 2020)



- Reopen with a physical presence.
- Encourage the use of masks.
- Mask recommendations should consider students and staff with disabilities.
- It is NOT recommended that schools encourage students and staff to undergo COVID-19 testing before reporting in person.
- Screen students and staff *and/or* encourage self-screening.



# ENHANCED RE-START GUIDANCE

- Enhancements incorporate DPH's June 13 Return to School Guidance.
- Clarifies that face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required.
- Incorporates a decision tree that provides leaders with targeted responses based on confirmed COVID-19 cases or exposures within a school community.





# JUNE 29 EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIREMENTS

- Gatherings prohibited, except in circumstances of summer school.
- State charter schools operating in-person *shall* implement measures to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19.
- The Executive Order does not prevent schools from requiring employees to attend in-person activities to support distance learning or otherwise plan for the 2020-2021 school year.





# JUNE 29 EXECUTIVE ORDER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Screen for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Implement preventative measures.
- Require employees with COVID-19 symptoms not to report to work or to seek a medical evaluation.
- Enhance sanitization efforts.
- Disinfect common surfaces.
- Prohibit gatherings on school premises outside of instructional time.
- Place signage encouraging hand hygiene at entrances.







# COMMUNITY SPREAD

- Identify, and remain in contact with, state, regional, and local health departments for community spread data. \*
- Plans should respond to circumstances requiring temporary school closure, enhanced mitigation measures, and preventative practices.
- Identify and train employee(s) responsible for monitoring community spread.
- Anticipate the need to collect data across multiple localities.
- Participate in contact tracing efforts. Report positive tests to DPH.



# COMMUNICATING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- Develop a plan for effective communications. [See GSBA Re-Opening Considerations](#)
- Survey your school community and consider feedback in pandemic planning.
- Budget for signage to communicate preventative and protective measures.
- Communicate protocols for students and staff who feel ill through various avenues.
- Conducting staff training to include COVID-19 prevention strategies.



# INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

## BROAD FLEXIBILITY

- Instructional model
- In-person reporting schedules
- Tracking remote/virtual attendance
- Academic calendar adjustments

## REQUIRED

- Student attendance and FTE reporting.
- Maintain evidence of virtual interactions/attendance (QBE)
- GaDOE notice of modified academic calendars
- Ensure student access to modified instructional delivery models (i.e. devices and connectivity). See [Connectivity & Device Restart Guidance](#)



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*Pandemic plans must include a weekly schedule that reflects when and how students, teachers, and staff are required to report.*



# ATTENDANCE

- “In attendance” means participating in active instruction and/or educational services.
- Establish attendance tracking methods for virtual instruction.
- FTE count is not impacted by instructional delivery model. (See 160-5-1-.07)
- Review GaDOE guidance for Digital Learning Planning and Attendance and FTE.

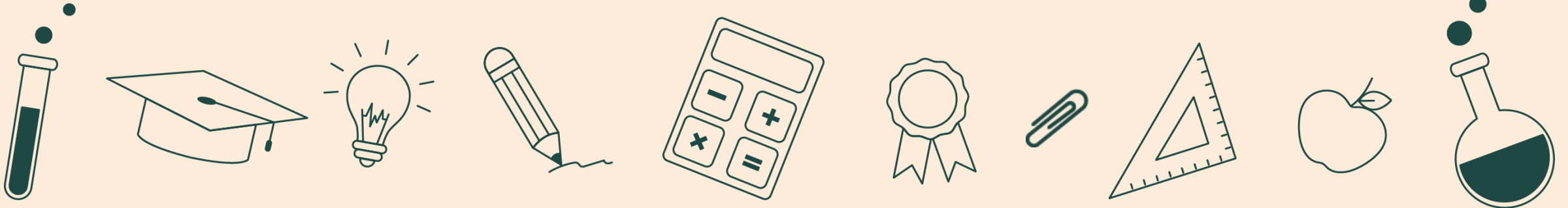


# Academic Calendar

## Rule 160-5-1-.02



- On June 18, the state Board of Education adopted a Resolution to exempt LEAs from minimum instructional time, school day, and school year requirements, upon submission of an amended school calendar.
- The resolution does not excuse FTE reporting obligations.





# PROCESS & PROCEDURE RESOURCES

## Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools

- Prevention and response
- Transportation
- School buildings
- Meal service
- Class transitions
- Group gatherings
- Teaching and learning support
- Vulnerable populations

## Available K-12 Restart Working Group Guidance

- School Meals
- Facilities, Equipment, and Transportation
- Connectivity & Devices

## Forthcoming additional guidance:

- Distance and Professional Learning
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Supplemental Learning





# REVIEW POLICIES & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Infectious Disease Policy
- Attendance Policies (for students and staff)
- Policies relevant to vulnerable populations
- Enrollment/Registration procedures
- Section 504/IEP/MTSS meeting protocols
- Required legal notices (i.e. FMLA, FFCRA, if applicable)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA)
- National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (SBOE Rule 160-1-3-.03)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), if applicable.
- Executive Orders



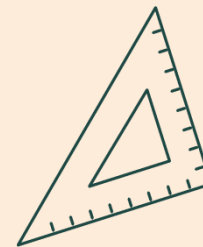


# Infectious Diseases

## Rule 160-1-3-.03



- Policies and procedures regarding the impact of infectious disease.
- Educate employees on infectious disease annually.
- Make personal protective equipment (PPE) available.
- Immediately counsel persons reasonably suspected of infectious disease to obtain a medical evaluation.
- Ensure operational decisions are made in conjunction with appropriate health officials and administrators.

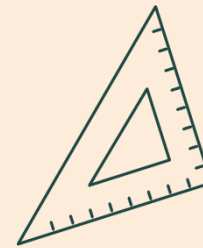


# Excused Absences

## Rule 160-5-1-.10



- Personal illness or *when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others.* (Emphasis added.)
- Serious illness necessitating absence from school.
- Court order by a government agency mandating absence from school.
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.

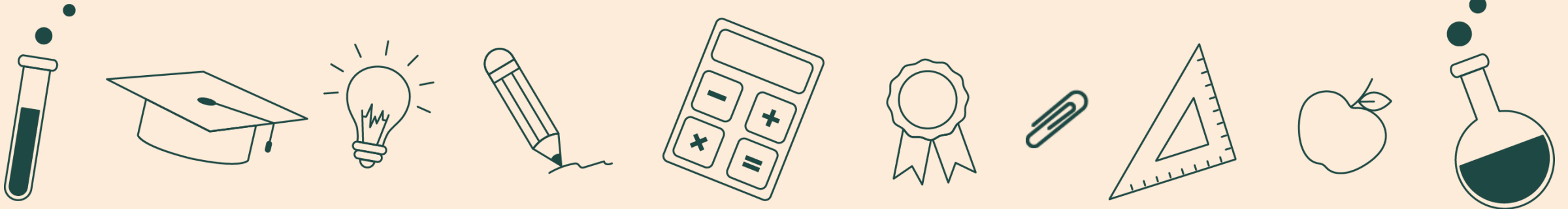


# Hospital Homebound Services

## Rule 160-4-2-.31



- State charter school (LEAs) must provide hospital homebound (HHB) services to eligible students, including students with disabilities.
- Eligible students include students with absences due to infectious disease as provided in Rule 160-1-3-.03. These students are eligible for HHB services for the length of time determined by an Educational Service Plan (an individual plan for students receiving HHB service developed by the school team, to include a school reentry procedure.)





# VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

The *Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools* guidance document defines “vulnerable populations” as “Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.”

## *Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools Recommendations*

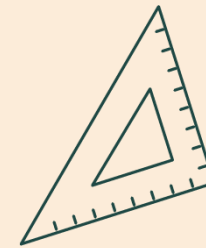
- Ensure PPE is readily available.
- Poll students and staff in vulnerable populations to gauge interest in returning to traditional school and work settings.
- Consult with legal counsel to ensure compliance with human resources, privacy, and reasonable accommodation requirements.



# Resources for Serving Students with Disabilities



- [Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Schools While Protecting the Civil Rights of Students](#) (March 16, 2020)
- [Supplemental Fact Sheet Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Schools While Serving Children with Disabilities](#) (March 21, 2020)
- [Supporting Students with Disabilities with Distance Learning](#) (April 2020)





# FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Plans should consider and correspond to community spread data.
2. Determine your needs and budget for materials and implementation.
3. Provide training on cleaning and sanitization procedures.
4. Review CDC and DPH guidelines for approved cleaning agents and adhere to storage guidelines.
5. Develop procedures to secure your facility in the event of a temporary closure.
6. Adjust student and staff transition schedules.
7. Adjust classroom layout consistent with public health guidelines.

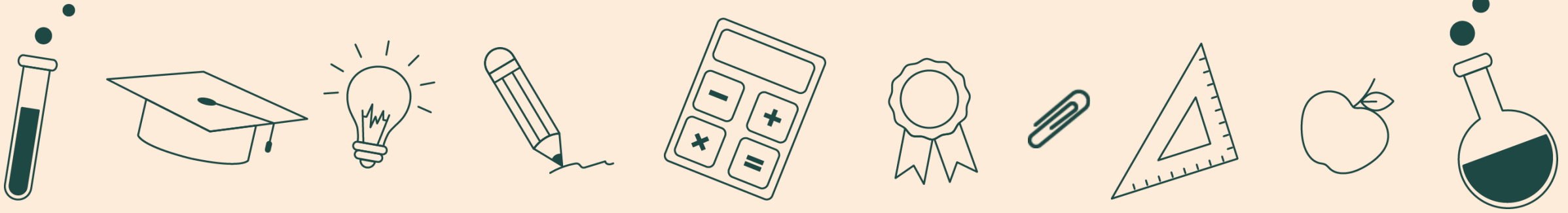




# MEALS & TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

- [Working Group: School Meals](#)
- [Working Group: Facilities, Equipment, and Transportation](#)
- [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles](#)





# Contact Us



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