Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls
As Of: March 26, 2020

Next steps for districts and charters:
1. Bookmark TEA’s coronavirus website tea.texas.gov/coronavirus for the most up-to-date guidance
2. Please continue to submit questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

Reminders:
- Given Governor’s closure order, please do not send updates on districts closings to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
- TEA will host an Instructional Continuity Informational Webinar Series next Monday-Friday from 9:00am-10:00am. Call-in information has been sent via the district and charter superintendent listserv.

Current status of facts:
- For daily updated on the reach of confirmed cases and the number of people tested, see the DSHS website
- All schools have been ordered closed through April 3
- As the Governor has not issued a statewide stay-at-home order, all questions regarding local stay-at-home orders currently in effect in Texas need to be addressed by the local authorities who have issued the orders.
  - Stay in communication with your local officials. You will need to ensure appropriate exemptions for school personnel.

Recap of topics covered:
- Statewide school closure ordered by Governor Abbott until April 3
  - Closure doesn’t mean we stop providing instruction.
  - If staff are entering the building, try to follow CDC guidance so that no more than 10 people are congregating in one place at one time.
- Superintendent Response Checklist
  - A Superintendent Response Checklist has been created by our Education Service Centers. This is being updated daily.
- Health Care System Coordination and Childcare Services
  - Districts are encouraged to reach out to local hospital systems to help support healthcare system employees with childcare.
  - A new resource was published this week to support districts with establishing these emergency childcare centers.
- Food Service
  - TXschools.gov is now hosting MealFinder to help families locate where to find breakfast and lunch for children.
- TDA is rapidly updating guidance on supporting meal service. See the Child Nutrition section of tea.texas.gov/coronavirus
- **Meals-to-You: Rural School Meal Delivery Support**
  - In partnership with the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, TDA will be working to support meal delivery to nearly 1,000,000 meals to students.
  - This delivery method will be implemented on a first come first serve basis. Districts that wish to participate should meet the following criteria:
    - Be a school food authority in good standing with the Texas Department of Agriculture
    - Be located in a rural county within Texas
    - Have announced a school closure lasting four weeks or longer
  - Interested districts can apply at Mealstoyou.org
- **School Finance While Closed**
  - An updated school finance FAQ was published yesterday, including new guidance on taking attendance and enrolling new students.
  - We have clarified guidance around the Missed School Days Waiver, including a revised waiver timeline.
  - Please document all additional costs you are incurring. Guidance on costs reimbursement are included in an FAQ published yesterday. More information coming soon, including guidance in working with FEMA.
  - An initial batch of FAQ responses have been posted related to federal grants
- **College, Career, and Military Preparation**
  - An updated FAQ was posted answering many questions about SAT, ACT, TSIA and AP/IB program testing
- **Cybersecurity**
  - TEA hosted a webinar on Monday to support districts with cyber security. The PPT can be downloaded directly from https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus (in the Miscellaneous section)
  - Please email all cybersecurity questions to cybersecurity@tea.texas.gov
- **School Board Elections**
  - Updated school board election guidance can be found here.
- **SPED**
  - Lots more SPED resources have been added on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus webpage
- **Residential Facilities**
  - Guidance was posted this past weekend to support those that operate Residential Treatment Facilities on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus webpage
- **TELPAS & EL Determinations**
  - TEA published guidance regarding TELPAS and LPAC.
- **Teacher & Employee Pay Issues**
  - Guidance regarding educator evaluation and non-renewals was posted, including providing instructions on submitting an educator appraisal waiver. Waivers will be granted as long as you apply.
- **Assessment**
  - Assessment guidance is updated every few days. Please check the website for the most-up-to-date information. The most recent guidance includes support for planning end-of-course exam scenarios.
  - Guidance on Individual Graduation Committees was posted on Tuesday, March 24
- **Instructional Continuity**
o TEA has launched a new Instructional Continuity webpage to aide districts in planning and execution of distance learning

o Recent guidance and resources include:
  ▪ Logistical considerations for packet pick-up of distance learning
  ▪ Grading student work; grading is a local decision, but this is meant to help districts think through the issues involved
  ▪ Providing internet to students
  ▪ An Instructional Continuity FAQ that details the planning and execution framework

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o More resources are coming soon!