Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls
As of: End of Week, April 17

Next steps for districts and charters:
1. Please take a few minutes to take an optional survey to provide TEA with information on how to better support districts during summer programming.
2. Bookmark TEA’s coronavirus website tea.texas.gov/coronavirus for the most up-to-date guidance
3. Please continue to submit questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
4. Thanks to those who are continue to help amplify the Stay Well, Texas public health campaign

Reminders:
• Governor Abbott’s closure order was extended to the end of the 2019-20 school year. Please do not send updates on districts closings to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov.
• TEA hosted the following webinars this week:
  o A deep dive webinar related to TexasHomeLearning.org on Wednesday, April 15 at 3:00pm.
  o A cybersecurity webinar related to virtual meeting security considerations on Thursday, April 16 at 10:00am
  o A webinar on Thursday, April 16 at 2:00pm focused on our Special Education updates, particularly the recent procurement of the Amplus Speech platform to provide Speech-Language Pathologists services during COVID
  o A webinar hosted by Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth on Friday, April 17 at 10:00am.
• The TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call have moved to Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00pm. Call-in information will remain the same.

Recap of topics covered:
• Child Nutrition
  o TDA continues to update guidance related to serving meals.
  o Clarification this week included topics related to:
    ▪ Operators providing bulk items to students
    ▪ Meals service on weekends, other days off
    ▪ Meals served to students over age 18
  o As you update your meal sites within TDA’s system, those sites will continue to be reflected at TXSchools.gov on the state’s MealFinder map. Please help spread the word to your families.
• Health Care System Coordination
o Child Care licensing waivers and related guidance were issued allowing school systems to more easily provide emergency childcare for children of essential workers.

o The Child Care Support section of our website contains several resources for districts.

- School Boards
  o Guidance to support school boards was updated to include information related to superintendent evaluations and House Bill 3 goal-setting processes.

- Educator Certification Testing
  o An update from Pearson and ETS was posted on Thursday.

- Educator and Staff Issues
  o An updated FAQ was posted related to teacher certification and hiring.

- Accountability
  o The Accountability FAQ was updated on Wednesday to remind districts that decisions regarding accountability for the 2020-2021 school year have not yet been made.

- Student Enrollment
  o An FAQ and best practices guidance document was posted related to the virtual enrollment of students.
  o In addition, the Attendance and Enrollment FAQ was updated on Tuesday.

- Summary of Waivers
  o The COVID-19 Related Waivers summary document was updated to include waivers related to college preparation assessment, Gifted/Talented students, and child care.

- Competitive and Letter of Intent (LOI) Grant Deadlines
  o Due to extended school closures, the following competitive and LOI grant application deadlines are now due on April 27, 2020:
    ▪ 2020-2021 Lone Star STEM Cycle 2, Year 1 grant
    ▪ 2020-2021 Public Charter School Start-up Program (Subchapter D) grant
    ▪ 2020-2021 CTE Perkins Reserve grant
    ▪ 2020-2021 Additional Days Planning and Execution grant
    ▪ 2020-2022 P-TECH Success grant

- Funding
  o Several FAQ documents were updated in the Waivers and Funding section of our website, including guidance related to COVID-19 Costs and CARES Act funding, Federal Funding and Grants, and General State Funding.
  o Regarding the CARES Act, please be careful with information received from non-governmental entities as this information likely gives you a false picture of your funding.

- Certain Student Populations
  o Several updated resources have been added to the Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus webpage.
  o Guidance related to Gifted and Talented students was posted, in addition to updated information for students experiencing homelessness and districts providing pregnancy related services.
A statewide Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) COVID-19 webinar will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. This webinar will provide several strategies, best practices, tools, and resources to assist the identification and support of students experiencing homeless during COVID-19.

- Updated English Learner FAQs also posted on Tuesday

**SPED**

- Several new resources have been added on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus webpage.
- The Special Education FAQ was updated on Thursday to include information on dyslexia.
- A Progress Monitoring Checklist was posted, in addition to a step-by-step guide to support providing Counseling as a Related Service. An FAQ related to Remote Counseling and Student Support Services was also posted.
- A checklist (in editable PDF format) for managing challenging behaviors was posted as districts support parents for students being served with behavior intervention plans (BIPs).
- An easy-to-use checklist was also posted for parents with tips and links to videos to help with managing challenging behaviors.
- TEA has procured a platform for interested school systems to provide Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) services during COVID.
  - The first ten thousand student seats were purchased for district use; a discounted price is being offered for districts using this service beyond the initial ten thousand student seats.
  - **Districts can register for this service at:** [https://airtable.com/shr0UGeXOWOF4Wd](https://airtable.com/shr0UGeXOWOF4Wd)
  - Please make sure you attend the Special Education Directors webinar on Thursday, April 16 at 2:00pm for additional information related to this SLP platform.

**Instructional Continuity**

- Our Instructional Continuity website is updated daily with an FAQ, LOTS of resources, recording webinars, and much more. All optional. The Instructional Continuity and Texas Home Learning FAQs were updated on Tuesday.
- We’re excited to announce a statewide “at-home” collaboration with PBS, including the development of an educator resource guide.
- Last week, TEA launched TexasHomeLearning.org to provide at-home learning resources as a contingency option for school districts
  - On Tuesday’s call, we highlighted the specific printable packets that can be shipped directly to homes for students to use (with support from a caregiver and/or remote support from a teacher) while at home.
  - Another webinar was conducted on Wednesday, April 15 to provide additional information. The webinar and the Printing Order Form and Budget Calculator spreadsheet was posted on Thursday.
  - You can learn more about the Texas Home Learning Printing and Shipping process [here](https://airtable.com/shr0UGeXOWOF4Wd).