Summary Debrief –
April 30 and May 5

Next steps for districts and charters:
1. Bookmark TEA’s newly revamped 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:
• 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.
• The TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call have moved to Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00pm. The call-in information has changed. Please use the call-in information sent via TEA’s Superintendent Listserv on May 5, 2020.

Recap of topics covered:
• Closure Order
  o Governor Abbott, on Friday, April 17, issued Executive Order-16 that closes schools through the 2019-2020 school year
• Governor Abbott’s Strike Force to Open Texas
  o TEA is working with educators, medical experts, and other officials to provide recommendations related to re-opening education.
  o Thank you to those districts across the state that supported this guidance development as part of the graduation working group!
  o Governor Abbott’s Executive Order-21, issued on Tuesday, May 5, announced three key changes to cover graduation ceremonies, students accessing schools, and staff accessing schools.
  o Graduation and Promotion Ceremonies
    ▪ A guidance document related to Graduation and End-of-Year Promotion Ceremonies includes information on the requirements and the three ceremony scenarios that are allowed under the current public safety environment.
    ▪ This guidance document can also be found in the Graduation 2020 section of our website.
  o Students Accessing Schools
    ▪ An additional guidance document was posted for students accessing the school building for administrative or non-instructional purposes
    ▪ Graduating seniors may also go back for activities that cannot be done virtually
    ▪ For clarification, the Special Education FAQ was updated to note that in-person evaluations are still not allowed.
o Staff Accessing Schools
  ▪ Given that the official COVID symptoms list has been expanded by the CDC, the protocols for staff accessibility to schools was updated to include new health and safety protocols.
  ▪ TEA will not be able to answer individual scenario questions, but we encourage you to thoroughly read the guidance and use your judgement. If anything is unclear, please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov and we can clarify on in future superintendent calls.

- Health Care System Coordination
  o An additional FAQ was created to provide information on frontline child care.
  o If you haven’t seen it already, check out the website devoted to frontline child care: https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/

- Child Nutrition
  o Friday, May 1 was School Lunch Hero Day is a nationwide celebration to showcase the difference school nutrition professional make in the lives of children.

- Graduation 2020
  o For seniors graduating this year, several new FAQs were posted, including information related to Individual Graduation Committees.
  o The NCAA posted an https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ncaa_faq.pdf FAQ for student-athletes and eligibility.

- Instructional Materials
  o The instructional materials inventory requirement is now waived, as described in the Instructional Materials Guidance document.
    ▪ Also posted were the steps to submit the instructional materials inventory waiver.

- Educator Certification and Preparation
  o Several updates to the Guidance on Educator Certification and Preparation FAQ were posted.
    ▪ Governor Abbott issued waivers allowing those candidates completing student teaching or an internship this spring to receive a one-year, probationary certificate for the 2020-21 school year without taking certification exams if they have met all other certification requirements.
  o Instructions for teacher candidates applying for a probationary certificate were posted.
  o For Educator Preparation Programs, instructions were posted for recommending a probationary certificate for a teacher candidate.

- Attendance and Enrollment
  o A clarification on the sixth-six weeks reporting period related to the 2019-2020 PEIMS Summer Submission was included in an updated Attendance and Enrollment FAQ.

- Uncontactable &/or Disengaged Students
  o A new FAQ and Best Practices guidance was posted related to supporting districts with identifying Uncontactable Students.
  o Related to this Uncontactable FAQ, a Crisis Codes Reporting Guidance document was posted to inform policy makers and support best practice around
identifying these students, particularly as they move from one district to another.
  o It is important to note that this information will not be used for any accountability purposes.

- **Student Discipline**
  o The [Student Discipline FAQ](#) was updated with several new responses.

- **ASVAB Reporting**
  o An [FAQ](#) was posted related to the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam.
  o Additionally, a document that outlines the steps to submit an ASVAB waiver was posted on Tuesday.

- **Summary of Waivers**
  o The [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document was updated to include the [Instructional Materials Inventory](#) and ASVAB waiver.

- **Funding**
  o An updated [Federal Funding and Grants FAQ](#) was posted to include several new responses, including a new section on Migrant Students.
  o The [General State Funding FAQ](#) was also updated.
  o In collaboration with the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and FEMA, the [FEMA-related](#) issues FAQ was updated to include clarity around allowable expenses.
    ▪ A conference call hosted by FEMA and TDEM took place last Friday; the webinar recording and fact sheet will be posted the week of May 4.
  o An optional COVID Detailed Cost Survey was sent to superintendents on Tuesday 5/5 asking for current costs and projected costs over next 6 months in 9 areas of potential additive costs.
    ▪ The survey also includes sections on expected reimbursements from other fund sources and decreases in revenue.
    ▪ Data from the survey will be used to coordinate implementation of various sources of funds in an attempt to reimburse LEAs for COVID-19 costs to the greatest extent possible.
    ▪ We’d like at least 50 districts, with several districts in each major size band, to respond.
    ▪ The survey is due at 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 8

- **Certain Student Populations**
  o **Migrant Students**
    ▪ Guidance for implementing the Title I, Part C [Migrant Student Program](#) was posted to support districts with completing the certificate of eligibility.
  o **English Learners**
    ▪ The [English Learner FAQ](#) was updated with new information for TELPAS administration.

- **Assessment**
  o An Optional End of Year Assessment for districts to diagnose student learning was announced last week with an [FAQ](#).
• For districts interested in participating in the Optional End of Year Assessment, a webinar and PPT were posted with additional information.
• The Optional End of Year Assessment will be available to districts on May 11, if not sooner.
• Watch this video first to learn how to register a student data file.

• SPED
  o Several new resources have been added to the newly revamped and stand-alone Special Education webpage.
  o The Special Education FAQ was updated to on Thursday to clarify the change to the SHARS parental consent and annual notice.
  o The COVID-19 Special Education website now includes sections on General Guidance, Instructional Supports, and Parent Resources.
    ▪ There are many new Instructional Support & Parent Support resources.
    ▪ On Tuesday, a new Tips for Remote Learning for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing guidance document was posted to support districts.

• Instructional Continuity and Texas Home Learning
  o Our Instructional Continuity website is updated daily with an FAQ, LOTS of resources, recording webinars, and much more. All optional.
  o Detailed guidance related to supporting at home learning for students with disabilities is now included within our Instructional Continuity planning resources.
  o An educator resource guidance related to the PBS At-Home Learning Collaboration is now also in Spanish!
  o Regarding Texas Home Learning:
    ▪ An overview of Phase 2.0 was posted as a preview to districts.
    ▪ An update to the printing and shipping process was posted last Thursday. Districts can start placing printing and shipping orders now.
    ▪ Spanish packets are now available!
    ▪ ESCs can now support printing and shipping to districts.
    ▪ TEA has also launched a Featured Resources section

• This week is Teacher Appreciation Week!