

# Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

Current date: March 14, 2020

## 1. Communications

- Given the volume of questions we're receiving, we will be working to formulate guidance on these important topics. We are working towards updating our FAQ and guidance on our website. Our website (<https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus>) will be the primary source of information moving forward. Please continue to email questions to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov)
- Superintendent Hotline. Given the volume of calls, if you call the number it will go to voicemail. You will receive a call back within 24 hours.
- Superintendent Listserv. We've realized that our listserv is not updated. Please email [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov) if you are NOT receiving the emails from our charter or district superintendent listserv.
- Reminder to report closings immediately to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov). Include the below information. An updated school closures tracker will be posted on our website beginning Monday and updated daily.
  - District name
  - County
  - Dates you are closing
  - Spring Break dates
- Resources and Guidance to Expect Soon
  - Communications template if announcing closure
  - Communications template in announcing staying open
  - Assessment Guidance – Expect by Thursday
  - 90% Attendance Requirement Waiver – coming tomorrow
  - A memo providing clarity of access to information on infections relevant to the school community – **INCLUDED AS AN ATTACHMENT TODAY**
- Summary Debrief document. This will be sent out periodically.

## 2. Updates on facts as of March 14, 2020

- a. Texas has 51 confirmed cases in 14 counties across Texas
- b. 316 district closings in 108 counties in Texas

## 3. Initial Guidance and FAQs

- a. On Thursday we shared our initial guidance and FAQs. The highlights were initial guidance on the following topics: Waivers and Funding, Instructional Continuity Planning, School Boards, and additional topics.
- b. Our TEA website (<https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus>) will be updating soon with new information. Please use this website as the primary source of information.
- c. Closure decision
  - i. This is a difficult decision.
  - ii. We have posted a link to a decision-making document from the CDC to help with the local decision-making process.
  - iii. This remains a local decision, no state order.
  - iv. TEA will be providing sample correspondence of relevance to districts considering closure or non-closure, based on messages already communicated

from other districts. These are optional to use, and meant only to be supportive resources.

d. Additional discussion topics

i. Child nutrition

1. We understand that you are working to ensure students have access to food at home. USDA has approved waivers allowing schools to provide meals to students even if the schools close temporarily due to Covid-19 in the immediate future. We will put the notice for this on our website on Monday.

a. Other costs incurred

- i. We encourage you to document all costs pertaining to coronavirus very diligently for reimbursement purposes.
- ii. Special education. We know there are a lot of special education topics; we are working to address these as soon as we have answers.

**4. Future topics**

- a. Decision-making around when to re-open schools.
- b. Additional resources on supporting students at home. At <https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus> you can find a Planning for Instructional Continuity document that talks through the options. Generally, we believe districts will have a high tech path (for families with Internet) and low- tech path (for those without). For districts thinking about options to expand internet access to their families, we are working to develop planning resources.

**5. Conclusion**

- a. We're grateful for the leadership of superintendents across the state during this difficult time. We know you are making very difficult decisions with imperfect information. These decisions are based on local context, and vary from one school system to the next. TEA wants to provide support to you all when making these difficult decisions, and help you communicate those decisions. We will do our best to support you, but will undoubtedly make mistakes along the way. We're all in this together.