



## SY 2021-2022 Waivers FAQ September 2, 2021

This document describes answers to questions LEAs may have when considering changes to district or campus operations due to COVID-19.

### 1. Will TEA be granting missed school day waivers if my schools are closed for on-campus instruction due to COVID-19?

The agency has no plans to issue missed school day waivers due to COVID-19 during the 2021–2022 school year to LEAs when the district or campuses are closed. LEAs should plan to make up time for school closures during the school year and may need to add additional instructional days and/or minutes to their calendar to meet the 75,600 operational minute requirement.

Updated  
9/2/21

### 2. Will TEA be granting low attendance waivers if my schools or district experienced low attendance due to COVID-19?

Districts or campuses can request a waiver for low attendance to excuse instructional days from ADA and FSP funding calculations that have attendance at least 10 percentage points below the last school year's overall average attendance, for the district or applicable campus due to inclement weather, health, or safety-related issues. See *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* 3.8.1.4.

LEAs have reported to TEA that attendance rate declines continue to occur due to COVID. As a result, the agency is exploring options to ensure school systems will not experience significant financial difficulties. Additionally, LEAs had varying daily rates of attendance during the 2020-2021 school year due to the impact of virtual learning options. Once TEA receives this local information in a PEIMS upload this fall, the agency will be equipped to analyze, understand, and determine potential changes to the rules around waivers, particularly low attendance waivers. Please expect more on this later in the semester.

*Note that minute waivers are subject to a 4,200 minute cap. This cap is inclusive of minutes for missed school days, low attendance, and staff development waivers. It is recommended that districts experiencing low attendance that meets the requirements of a low attendance waiver wait until the end or near the end of the school year\* to submit low attendance waivers. This delay in submission will permit a year-in-review evaluation to occur and afford the LEA to determine which attendance related waivers are most beneficial to the district.*

*\*Please note, low attendance waivers are due no later than July 1, 2022.*