

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 deliver 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

- TEA has launched a new Instructional Continuity [webpage](#) to aide districts in planning and execution of distance learning
- 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
- 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.
- More resources are coming soon!