

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls As of: May 19 and May 21

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.**
- A search bar was added to the main [TEA coronavirus website](#) to make searching within documents and across the multiple sub-sites easier. Enjoy!

Recap of topics covered:

- Guidance Related to Governor Abbott's Executive Order-23 (EO-23)
 - Governor Abbott's most recent Executive Order set guidance related to [Summer instruction, activities, and school visits](#).
 - As a result of EO-23, the Updated information from TEA includes guidance related to [graduation and end-of-year promotion ceremonies](#), [students accessing schools](#), [protocols for staff accessibility](#) were also updated.
 - 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.
- Graduation 2020
 - For seniors graduating this year, several new [FAQs](#) were posted, including information related to [Individual Graduation Committees](#).
 - Given some requests, TEA produced a short video from Commissioner Morath celebrating graduating seniors. Additionally, Lieutenant Governor Patrick has made a video available featuring congratulation messages from many notable figures in Texas and the US. Feel free to use [these videos](#) with your graduation ceremonies if they will be of benefit.
- Child Nutrition
 - As a reminder, the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT is for children 5-18 years old who received SNAP food benefits for the month of March, 2020 and children up to 21 years old who are certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year.

- Families will be mailed a P-EBT card with up to \$285 pre-loaded. This can be used just like a credit card at any store that accepts SNAP. For families with children age 5-18 that received SNAP benefits in March, their Lone Star Card will automatically be loaded with these funds by May 22. For all other students who are certified for free or reduced-price lunch, families will need to fill out an application to get their P-EBT funds beginning the first week of June.
- A new [P-EBT FAQ](#) was posted with lots of information, in addition to a To The Administrator Addressed [Letter](#).
- Since TEA cannot send information directly to families, we request that districts use the sample letters to families, flyers, social media posts, and robocall scripts located on our coronavirus [Child Nutrition website](#) to download these helpful bilingual resources.
 - Start with reading the [Recommended Communications Timeline](#)
- The application for families goes live on June 1.
- Reading Diagnostic Instruments
 - A [new FAQ](#) was posted announcing that a waiver of the requirement to use one of the two specified reading instruments will be approved for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - This waiver was captured in an updated [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document
- Attendance and Enrollment
 - Information related to enrolling foreign exchange students was included in an updated [Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#).
- CARES Act Funding
 - TEA announced its plan for CARES Act Funding and provided several pieces of information to support district planning:
 - A new [CARES Act Funding and Expense Reimbursement FAQ](#)
 - An updated [Federal Funding FAQ](#)
 - An updated [General State Funding FAQ](#)
 - [LEA entitlement amounts](#)
- School Boards
 - An updated [FAQ](#) was posted that provides clarification that TEA will accept waivers requests from superintendents that are delegated this authority from school boards.
- Preventing Child Abuse
 - In our efforts to reduce child abuse, a [new FAQ](#) was posted to increase awareness and reporting of child abuse, neglect, and trafficking.
- Optional Beginning of Year Assessment
 - In addition to the [Optional End of Year Assessment](#) that Texas students can take from May 11 through June 12, we announced last week that [Optional Beginning of Year Assessments](#) will also be available to districts across the state.
- Making COVID-19 Adjustments to the School Calendar for 2020-21
 - 2020-2021 STAAR Testing
 - Districts will get more flexibility in determining their testing schedule for school year 2020-2021.

- The Spring 2021 **online** testing window will be extended into June 2021 to give maximum flexibility to schools in determining when they test. Exact dates and further details are coming soon. The December 2020 **online** testing window will also be extended to provide similar flexibility.
- TEA will provide rolling score reporting to districts dependent on when they complete their Spring testing (for the whole district together).
- Because of the complexity of logistics, districts will **not** have window flexibility if they choose to test on **paper**.
- FAQ and other guidance documents are forthcoming.
- To support district planning, a new and comprehensive FAQ related to [Calendar Guidance](#) was posted.
- Summer Learning Support: Texas Home Learning
 - We posted an update related to Texas Home Learning 2.0 and [improved text access](#), including a new [flyer](#) to provide Texas students with access to digital books and articles, and