

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

As of: May 7

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:

- Clarifying Guidance Related to Governor Abbott's Executive Order-21
 - 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.
 - Graduation and Promotion Ceremonies
 - An updated 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. There are two key updates:
 - Hybrid graduations, conducted with the appropriate restrictions, are now allowed beginning on May 5.
 - In-person graduations, conducted with the appropriate restrictions, are now allowed beginning on May 29.
 - A document featuring examples of district plans can also be found in the [Graduation 2020](#) section of our website.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Uncontactable &/or Disengaged Students
 - A [To The Administrator Addressed Letter \(TAA\)](#) was posted, which formally announces the effort to identify [Uncontactable Students](#).
 - It is important to note that this information will not be used for any accountability purposes.
 - We do not currently intend to collect data on students experiencing homelessness. For the most updated guidance on supporting these students, please read our Students Experiencing Homelessness [FAQ](#).
- Attendance and Enrollment
 - A question about withdrawing students from full time Virtual School Network campuses was included in an updated [Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#).
- Funding
 - An updated [Federal Funding and Grants FAQ](#) was posted to include several new responses, including a new section on the Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) grants.
 - 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 was due at 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 8
 - Related to expense reimbursements, this is [National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#). Please make sure you are doing the critical planning necessary for your districts.
 - Resources can be found at [Ready.Gov](#).
- Summary of Waivers
 - The [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document was updated to include the [ASVAB](#) waiver and a table on page 2 to help with reading the document.
- Educator Certification and Preparation
 - Several updates to the Guidance on Educator Certification and Preparation [FAQ](#) were posted related to the TExES exam.
- SPED
 - Several new resources have been added to the newly revamped and stand-alone Special Education [webpage](#).
 - The Special Education [FAQ](#) was updated on Thursday to provide additional information on ARD committees, especially as it concerns graduation.
 - 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.
- Assessment

- 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.
 - **Students will be able to start taking this online, from their homes, on May 11 through June 12.**
- School Calendar Considerations
 - As part of our [Instructional Continuity](#) efforts, we discussed the concept of adjusting the 2020-2021 academic calendar to address the potential devastating [impact](#) of COVID-19 on student achievement.
 - The initial research indicates that students could return to school nearly a full year behind what normally occurs after a summer break. We must change practices to address this.
 - A [PPT](#) was presented that provided initial guidance on adjusting school calendars as a response to COVID-19.
 - In addition, a [Changing School Start Date Guidance](#) document was posted to support districts that are seeking to explore this change.
 - We acknowledge that this is an extraordinary change, particularly at this point in the school year. As such, we encourage you to start these critical conversations now with your stakeholders if this is an option you want to pursue for your school community.
 - A good place to start is re-watching the HB 3 in 30 webinar related to the [Additional Days School Year](#) initiative.