

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

As of: **September 24**

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:

- The TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call have moved to **Thursdays only** at 3:00pm. The call-in information has changed. Please use the call-in information sent via TEA's Superintendent Listserv on **August 13, 2020**.

Recap of topics covered:

- Public Health Guidance
 - Governor Abbott's [Executive Order-30](#) (EO-30) reaffirmed TEA's Public Health Guidance
 - The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) posted on [DSHS Website](#) the first aggregate statewide number of cases of COVID-19 reported by all Texas public schools, in addition to district level data.
 - A [DSHS Texas Public Schools Data Display FAQ](#) was posted to support understanding of the data.
 - Additional FAQs were added to the [Case Reporting and Instructions FAQ](#).
 - TEA's [Public Health Guidance](#) was also updated to correct a minor typo related to test-confirmed cases in the close contact section.
- Attendance and Enrollment
 - The [FAQ](#) was updated to include information related to streamlining attendance gathering, virtual classroom requirements, and an extension of the 4 week transition window given EO-30.
- Asynchronous and Synchronous Instruction
 - The current list of districts that have submitted Letters of Intent can be found [here](#). 574 asynchronous plans have been submitted and 314 have been approved.
- Teacher Certification Assignment Flexibility Options
 - A new [20-21 Certification Assignment Flexibility Guidance](#) document was posted to provide the options available to school districts.
- Student Discipline
 - The [20-21 Discipline Guidance](#) was updated to include a PEIMS code for virtual learning misbehavior.
- Operation Connectivity

- While there are no updates to posted documents, the bulk order purchase program has had great success in expediting shipments of hotspots and devices to our districts participating in the program.
 - 116,000 HP Chromebooks are shipping this week and next
 - 100% of iPads have been shipped and will be delivered shortly
 - 100% of hotspots are set to be delivered by next week
 - Dell has begun shipments this week and all Windows laptops begin shipping in the next 10 days, with the majority arriving in October and early November
- The Operation Connectivity team is now turning their attention to addressing the medium-term, Phase Two, solutions.
 - Phase Two will focus on developing pre-negotiated low-cost fixed internet solutions that are immediately available to students who are not yet connected. More information forthcoming.
- E-Rate
 - The Federal Communications Commission has announced a new 2020 application window to deal with increased bandwidth concerns for districts who are participating in the first application window and Category 1 requests.
 - TEA hosted a webinar on Friday, September 25 to provide additional information. A recording can be found on our [Classroom Connectivity](#) webpage.
- School Funding
 - As a reminder, districts have until September 30 to apply for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) reimbursement through TDEM. TDEM posted a helpful [CRF FAQ](#).
- Project Restore
 - TEA launched [Project Restore](#), a trauma-informed training video series, which is designed to address this challenging time and connect educators to relevant science and strategies that can help them address their own emotional needs as well the needs of their students.
 - [Video 4: Building Student Relationships](#) was posted last week. The rest of the training series videos will be added in the coming weeks.
 - [Facilitation Guides](#) are posted within videos to help school leaders facilitate a group professional development session with teachers and staff.
 - Users will receive a CPE certificate after completing a short quiz after each video, and completion of the video series meets the Senate Bill 11 trauma and grief training requirement for educators.
- Additional Updates
 - House Bill 3 created a new spending requirement related to compensation increases for school years when the basic allotment increases.
 - On Friday, September 11, TEA sent out an email to all superintendents via the superintendent listserv with a link to a Qualtrics survey that an LEA could fill out and submit the required information. TEA is asking that LEAs submit this survey by October 9 in Qualtrics.
 - The Additional Days School Year Intent to Participate survey is open now until September 30, and we are looking for a response from all districts to make sure we are anticipating impact appropriately.
 - The [20-21 College Prep Assessments FAQ](#) was also updated with minor changes.

- Don't forget to fill out your [census](#) as the deadline is September 30!