

- 1. Will TEA waive the requirement in Texas Education Code (TEC), §44.004, to adopt a budget before we start our fiscal year (July 1 or September 1) because of the uncertainties of projecting ADA and funding for 2021? *Posted March 30, 2020***

No. The requirements for adopting a budget are still in place and TEA does not expect them to be waived. A district or charter school cannot spend funds for the new fiscal year until a budget is adopted. Pursuant to TEC, §44.006, the board may amend the budget or adopt an emergency supplementary budget. TEA has provided guidance regarding remote board meetings on the COVID-19 webpage.

- 2. Has TEA considered waiving the requirement in TEC, §44.005, for districts and charter schools to submit their annual financial audit within 150 days of their fiscal year end (November 27 or January 28)? *Posted May 14, 2020***

Districts and charter schools that have a June 30th fiscal year may submit a waiver request through the TEAL system, using the “Other” waiver application option. Instructions for filling out the waiver can be found in the Waivers and Finance section of the TEA Coronavirus website. The waiver application must include the board minutes in which the board approved the action to extend the due date of the audited annual financial report (AFR), as well as, for school districts, comments from a committee formed pursuant to Texas Education Code, §11.251. An extension will be granted, upon the waiver taking effect, to change the AFR due date to January 28, 2021. Please note that if a waiver is not requested, the due date of the AFR remains November 27, 2020. If the AFR is submitted after the due date, it could lead to additional action taken by TEA. Districts and charter schools that have an August 31st fiscal year remain required to submit their audited AFR by January 28th.

- 3. Is TEA going to postpone issuing Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) ratings for the 2020-2021 ratings year because our auditors may not be able to complete our audits in time to meet the submission deadlines due to school closings because of Covid-19? *Posted March 30, 2020***

The agency is aware of this concern and will continue to monitor the status of district and charter school closings to determine if additional actions need to be taken.

4. Will TEA turn off certain FIRST indicators like audit submission deadline, budget compared to actual, days of cash on hand, pupil projections, decline in students, etc.? *Posted March 30, 2020*

The agency is aware of this concern and will review the data and make the necessary adjustments, if there are significant impacts to the financial performance of districts and charter schools.

5. How does a district or charter school comply with the location and participation requirements for holding a public hearing on its annual financial management report after receipt of its final FIRST rating, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? *NEW October 21, 2020*

A district or charter school may hold a virtual hearing and take virtual testimony in conformance with COVID-19 resources and guidelines published by the Office of the Attorney General and Texas Department of Information Resources. TEA will consider a hearing held in conformance with such resources and guidelines as compliant with the hearing location and participation requirements of 19 TAC §109.1001(q)(4). The district must, however, continue to follow all other hearing-related and notice requirements of the rule.

NEW
10/21/20