1. When we are providing remote instruction or implementing a contingency plan do we need to change PEIMS reporting code if those services represent a temporary change?

No, TEA understands that LEAs may at times have to implement contingency plans for a limited duration due to circumstances like COVID-19 or other severe weather events. LEAs should list instructional codes in PEIMs as the code in which the student would be served as defined by the IEP under normal circumstances. LEAs do not need to change coding in PEIMs while providing services defined in contingency plans.

2. How should LEAs count contact hours for virtual instruction for ESY reimbursement submissions?

Only hours of synchronous communication between school staff and eligible students may be counted as ESY contact hours for purposes of reimbursement.

3. Do we need to submit Homebound waivers for students during the 4-week period of remote instruction?
Please refer to our specific guidance here on homebound waivers.

4. Can we use IDEA funds to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) or other pandemic related specialty equipment for students served by special education?

IDEA funds may be used for expenditures directly tied to specific needs identified an individual student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

5. Will the timeline for the emergency rule requiring rising first grade students to participate in the required reading assessment within the first 20 school days be extended due to issues related to at home learning in the 20-21 school year?

No. incoming 1st graders in the school year 2020-2021, who were not assessed for dyslexia at the end of the 2019-2020 school year as kindergartners, must be assessed with a literacy assessment tool (not a full dyslexia screener), as per TEC 28.006, within the first 20 school days. Administering a literacy assessment within this crucial window will ensure that teachers have accurate, timely information to inform and individualize instruction. This data will be used to determine the Early Reading Indicator Code for Fall Submission. Information about assessments LEAs may use to fulfill this requirement is linked here. The assessments listed here include remote administration options for students receiving instruction virtually.