

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

As Of: March 16, 2020

Next steps for districts and charters:

1. Bookmark TEA's coronavirus website tea.texas.gov/coronavirus for the most up-to-date guidance
2. Report school closure information and all questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
 - a. Please include your district, county, the dates you've announced for closure, and your dates of spring break. If a public school, please include your CDCN.
3. If you are not receiving correspondence from the district or superintendent listservs, please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

What to expect from TEA:

1. Posting information the tea.texas.gov/coronavirus website:
 - a. A model template for districts communicating closure
 - b. A model template for districts communicating staying open

Reminders:

- Given the volume of questions we're receiving, we will be working to formulate guidance on these important topics. We are working towards updating our FAQ and guidance on our website.
- Our website (tea.texas.gov/coronavirus) will be the primary source of information moving forward. Please continue to email questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

Fact base:

- 57 confirmed cases in Texas in 17 counties
- Approximately 730 school districts and charters have announced closure in 196 counties

Recap of topics covered:

- Closure Decision
 - Coordinate any decision with your [local health authority](#)
 - The mayor and judge in your county retain the authority to direct a district to close
 - The CDC has provided [guidance](#) to districts on when to close
 - Consider the conditions in your community when deciding to re-open your schools and what operational adjustments to make when re-opening
- School Finance
 - Districts should not be worried about school finance issues. See this [FAQ](#).
 - TEA will provide additional guidance as it relates to data reporting in the coming days
 - Regarding teacher and staff pay, districts should make decisions and policies for their employees on a local basis. But normal school funding will continue to flow.
 - TEA will update its coronavirus website with resources as they become available
 - TASB has provided good guidance in this area
 - Document everything meticulously as it relates to additional costs you are incurring in order to receive any possible future federal reimbursement related to the virus
- Child Nutrition

- Please see all up-to-date guidance from the Texas Department of Agriculture at squaremeals.org/coronavirus
- Instructional Continuity Planning
 - TEA wants to provide maximum flexibility as this will look different for every community and we ask that you be thoughtful in planning
 - TEA is standing up an instructional continuity task force – please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov if you are interested in participating
- Special Education
 - Correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) regarding serving special education students has been posted to our webpage
 - From guidance TEA has received from USDE: ““If an LEA continues to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during a school closure, the school must ensure that students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities, including the provision of FAPE. (34 CFR §§ 104.4, 104.33 (Section 504) and 28 CFR § 35.130 (Title II of the ADA)).”
 - TEA is also standing up a SPED task force
 - If you would like to be on the task force please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
- Assessment
 - The Governor waived state law and requested a waiver from USDE for all testing requirements for this year. STAAR will not be administered by TEA this year.
 - Given the inability to examine data from STAAR, we have begun getting requests for assistance on how else districts can get accurate diagnostic information on students in order to support their continued academic progress. We are beginning to think through resources to help with this challenge.
 - TEA will work on guidance for grade level promotion and other issues related to this assessment decision (e.g. graduating seniors this year, and in future years).
- English Learners
 - We will be extending the TELPAS window for testing and processing
 - TEA will ask for a waiver this week from the USDE for local determinations to be used to guide EL determinations this year
 - Expect more flexibility on TELPAS as we continue to review the situation.