

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls

As of: End of Week, April 24

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
3. Thanks to those who are continue to help amplify the [Stay Well, Texas](#) public health campaign

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. Call-in information will remain the same.

Recap of topics covered:

- Governor Abbott's Strike Force to Open Texas
 - TEA is working with other state officials to provide recommendations related to education.
 - An [Access While Closed FAQ](#) was posted to advise school systems to first consult with its legal counsel before allowing activities on school property. This document replaces our original Shelter-In-Place FAQ.
 - [Guidance](#) on entering schools during this closure period was updated.
- Graduation 2020
 - Several new [FAQs](#) were posted related to graduation requirements, including [instructions](#) for submitting a CPR Requirement Waiver.
 - More information on graduation ceremonies, including around physical, in-person graduation is forthcoming. Thank you for your patience.
 - In addition to those districts that are members of our Instructional Continuity, Special Education, and Internet task forces, we are grateful to those systems that are helping us as part of our graduation working group!
- Health Care System Coordination
 - The [Emergency Childcare Guide for Schools](#) was updated to provide a model [job description](#) from TASB.
 - Child care support information is now part of the [Academics](#) section on our website, and contains several resources for districts.
- Early Childhood Education
 - An update to our [early childhood guidance](#) provided information related to progress monitoring and high quality Pre K requirements.
- School Safety

- Information on the safety and security committee and a deadline extension for the annual school safety audit were posted in our [School Safety FAQ](#).
- Grading
 - In the updated [Guidance on Grading](#), clarification was provided on incompletes for a grading period, receiving transfer students with incompletes, and how an incomplete should be noted on a student transcript.
- Information Technology and PEIMS/TSDS
 - An FAQ that previously posted in our Special Education guidance related to using Zoom (or similar tools) during ARD meetings was moved to the [Information Technology FAQ](#).
 - Several new FAQs were posted to the [PEIMS/TSDS FAQ](#) to provide additional guidance to PEIMS clerks.
- Educator Certification and Preparation
 - Several updates to the Guidance on Educator Certification and Preparation [FAQ](#) were posted, including a [presentation](#) that announces educator certification updates.
 - Governor Abbott issued waivers allowing those candidates completing student teaching or an internship this spring to receive a one-year, probationary certificate for the 2020-21 school year without taking certification exams if they have met all other certification requirements.
 - [Instructions for teacher candidates](#) applying for a probationary certificate were posted.
 - For Educator Preparation Programs, [instructions](#) were posted for recommending a probationary certificate for a teacher candidate.
- Summary of Waivers
 - The [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document was updated to include waivers related to CPR requirements and Educator Certification and
 - Preparation.
- Funding
 - The [Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#) was updated with information on documenting student attendance for days schools are “Closed, Instructing.”
 - As a reminder, districts have to meet 75,600 operational minutes, which will ensure your district is not subject to a reduction in funding.
 - The [Virtual Enrollment and Best Practices](#) guidance document was updated with information about withdrawing students via TREx.
 - An updated [Federal Funding and Grants FAQ](#) was posted to include extended grant timelines and answers related to allowable expenditures of grant funds
 - Regarding the CARES Act, please be careful with information received from non-governmental entities as this information likely gives you a false picture of your funding.
 - Our current guidance to school systems is to spend conservatively.
 - Please see previous guidance posted on our [COVID-19 Costs and CARES Act Funding FAQ](#).
- College Preparation Assessments and Dual Credit

- An updated [FAQ](#) on college preparation assessments was posted with information related to House Bill 3 reimbursement costs, TSIA remote testing, and new ways to take the SAT and ACT exams.
- A new [FAQ](#) was posted related to Dual Credit Summer Enrollment last week.
 - Testing, specifically for TSIA, ACT, and SAT, has caused a disruption in determining whether students are dual credit ready and/or whether they meet the requirements to enroll in college. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has encouraged Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) to use multiple measures to determine readiness for both dual credit and college enrollment.
 - The FAQ lists some of the alternative measures, but we encourage districts to connect with your IHE partners to inquire about their decisions since these remain local decisions.
- Assessment
 - An Optional End of Year Assessment for districts to diagnose student learning was announced last week with an [FAQ](#).
 - For districts interested in registering for the Optional End of Year Assessment, a [video](#) was posted with instructions to help with registration.
 - TEA will host a webinar on Tuesday, April 28 and will post the recording the same day on the agency's COVID website.
- Certain Student Populations
 - The Special Populations [webpage](#) is now a stand-alone website.
 - [Tips for Families with English Learners](#) was posted last week as an informational campaign, including resources in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- 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 include information on FIEE documentation, HB 3 dyslexia funds, and contacting with difficult-to-reach students.
 - The COVID-19 Special Education website now includes sections on [General Guidance](#), [Instructional Supports](#), and [Parent Resources](#).
 - Within the General Guidance page, there were several updates including to the [Residential School Programs Guidance](#) as it relates to high cost funds. Additional postings include:
 - [Considerations](#) for online educational platforms for students with disabilities
 - Supporting students with [Assistive Technology](#)
 - [Early childhood interventions](#) for students who are deaf or hard of hearing or blind or visually impaired
 - A [notice](#) from TEA on Monitoring, Review and Support Activities
 - The [Instructional Supports](#) page includes several resources from ESCs and external organizations, including recommendations for instructional continuity.
 - The [Parent Resources](#) page includes several resources for learning at home.

- Special Education resources and examples for districts are now embedded into the [Instructional Continuity Planning Framework](#).
- Instructional Continuity and Texas Home Learning
 - Our Instructional Continuity [website](#) is updated daily with an FAQ, LOTS of resources, recording webinars, and much more. All optional.
 - [Detailed guidance](#) related to supporting at home learning for students with disabilities is now included within our Instructional Continuity planning resources.
 - Regarding Texas Home Learning:
 - Districts can start placing [printing and shipping orders](#) now.
 - Spanish [packets](#) are now available!
 - [ESCs](#) can now support printing and shipping to districts.
 - TEA has also launched a [Featured Resources](#) section