

## Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls As Of: April 3, 2020

Next steps for districts and charters:

1. Bookmark TEA's coronavirus website [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date guidance
2. Help amplify the *Stay Well, Texas* public health campaign at [tea.texas.gov/staywell](https://tea.texas.gov/staywell)
3. Please continue to submit questions to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov)

Reminders:

- [Governor Abbott's closure order](#) was extended to May 4, 2020. Please do not send updates on districts closings to [disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov](mailto:disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov).
- TEA hosted an Instructional Continuity Informational Webinar Series every day this past week. You can find recordings on our [Instructional Continuity website](#).
- **Starting next week, the TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call moves to Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00pm. Call-in information will remain the same.**

Current status of facts:

- DSHS maintains a real-time dashboard of [confirmed cases](#).

Recap of topics covered:

- All schools have been ordered closed up to, but excluding, May 4.
  - The [Guidance on Educator and Staff Issues](#) provides additional information on the closure order as well as clarifies who is considered essential personnel.
  - A [template](#) was created for staff authorizing their ability to commute to school while the shelter-in-place order is in place.
  - Parents are allowed to travel to schools to pick up meals, instructional packets, laptops or other devices, etc.
  - [Sample communications examples](#) have been provided to help in the event you need to communicate with staff/students about an infected staff or student.
- Public health communications campaign – [Stay Well, Texas](#)
  - TEA, in collaboration with DSHS, has created [several resources for us to collectively execute a public health campaign](#), including a campaign document, English and Spanish templates for social media posts and text messages for districts to send to their communities. Please help us by participating in the campaign.
- Health Care System Coordination
  - Child Care licensing waivers are coming soon. Information on current child care licensing requirements can be found [here](#). Thank you for those districts that have launched child care sites for first responders and essential personnel.
- Food Service

- [TXschools.gov](https://www.txschools.gov) is now hosting MealFinder to help families locate where to find breakfast and lunch for children. Thank you for your support in getting the word out.
- TDA is rapidly updating guidance on supporting meal service. Additional flexibility has been provided by USDA and TDA has implemented that flexibility. See the [Child Nutrition section of the TEA coronavirus page](#)
- Rural districts can take advantage of a [TDA meal delivery service](#). More information is at [mealstoyou.org](https://mealstoyou.org)
- School Finance While Closed
  - School finance provisions will apply the rest of this school year as long as districts are providing instruction to students. See the [Waivers & Funding section](#) of the coronavirus website, for information on:
    - School finance adjustments being made during Coronavirus
    - Waiver / attestation application processes
    - FIRST ratings FAQ
    - Grant funding guidance
  - Be sure to [document every new cost](#) you have related to COVID-19! Without documentation, reimbursement is far less likely.
- School Boards
  - Additional guidance on required trainings and deadline extensions were included in the updated [School Board FAQs](#).
- SPED
  - Several new SPED resources have been added on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus [webpage](#). Additional resources include information related to ARD committees, Section 504, and evaluation and FERPA considerations.
  - Thank you to districts serving on the SPED Task Force!
- Certain Student Populations
  - Several new resources have been added on the new Special Education and Special Populations Coronavirus [webpage](#). Guidance related to foster care and military connected students, in addition to information for students experiencing homelessness has been posted.
  - Updated [English Learner FAQs](#) posted on Thursday, including [guidance](#) on the TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate assessment.
- Teacher Certification & Educator Preparation
  - Several requirements for teacher certification have been waived adjusted. Details are posted [here](#).
- Teacher and Employee Issues
  - Guidance regarding [educator evaluation and non-renewals](#) was updated, including guidance on student and teacher interactions while in a virtual environment.
  - Remember to seek a [waiver](#) if desired related to educator appraisals.
- Assessment
  - Assessment guidance is updated every few days. Please check the coronavirus website's [assessment section](#) for the most-up-to-date information.

- [Guidance](#) related to grading and graduation requirements posted on March 30.
- FitnessGram requirements have been [waived](#) for this year.
- Accountability
  - An [Accountability FAQ](#) was posted on April 2.
    - For August 2020 accountability ratings, formal ratings for all districts will be “not-rated.”
  - [A School Improvement FAQ](#) on changes to intervention requirements also posted on April 2.
  - Included is an initial announcement of a new grant for “Targeted Improvement” campuses to support instructional continuity (question #7 in the FAQ).
    - This Instructional Continuity Grant will be released on April 6.
- Instructional Continuity
  - Our Instructional Continuity [website](#) is updated daily with an FAQ, LOTS of resources, recording webinars, and much more. All optional.
  - Some updates this week included information on FERPA, early childhood, guidance on grading and graduation, and introducing a website highlighting the COVID-19 resources by [ESC Region](#).
  - Thank you to the superintendents of [Wylie](#), [Garland](#), [Sinton](#), [Hawkins](#), and [Weimar](#) ISDs for highlighting their district’s approaches to instructional continuity!
  - On next Tuesday’s call, we will be doing a deep dive on optional at-home instructional resources being made available for all school systems in Texas. We previewed a first look at this resource on Wednesday’s call.
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month
  - The [Guidance on Educator and Staff Issues](#) provides information regarding assessing and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Discipline Data Deadline Extended
  - The 2019 Discipline Data Validation compliance review deadline has been [extended](#) past April 3. A new deadline will be announced soon.
- FEMA FAQs
  - [FAQs](#) on FEMA-related issues was posted, including guidance for school boards on developing policies to support reimbursement processes.
- U.S. Congress 2020 CARES Act
  - Texas is estimated to receive between 1 to 1.5 billion in funding. The exact amount is unknown at this time.
  - At this time, we do not know how these funds will be distributed.