

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls As of: May 12 and May 14

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

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. **The call-in information has changed. Please use the call-in information sent via TEA's Superintendent Listserv on May 5, 2020.**

Recap of topics covered:

- Guidance Related to Governor Abbott's Executive Order-21
 - Updated information from TEA includes guidance related to [graduation and end-of-year promotion ceremonies](#), [students accessing schools](#), [protocols for staff accessibility](#)
 - TEA will not be able to answer individual scenario questions, but we encourage you to thoroughly read the guidance and use your judgement. If anything is unclear, please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov and we can clarify on in future superintendent calls.
- Health Care System Coordination
 - A new [website](#) was launched to help Texans find COVID-19 test collection sites, which is linked from our tea.texas.gov/coronavirus website.
- Child Nutrition.
 - HHSC announced Wednesday that Texas received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide more than \$1 billion in pandemic food benefits to families with children that have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to COVID-19-related closures.
 - The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer or P-EBT is for children 5-18 years old who received SNAP food benefits for the month of March, 2020 and children up to 21 years old who are certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year.
 - The application for families goes live on June 1. Learn more [here](#).
- Grading Policies
 - Several updates to the [Grading Guidance FAQ](#) were posted on Tuesday, including information for students receiving accelerated instruction.
- Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN)

- A brand new [FAQ](#) was posted related to the TXVSN.
- Charter Schools
 - A new and comprehensive [FAQ](#) solely related to charter schools was posted last week.
- Educator Certification and Preparation
 - Several updates to the Guidance on Educator Certification and Preparation [FAQ](#) were posted, including information for out-of-state applicants and an announcement extending the certification window to parallel Governor Abbott's disaster declaration.
- Funding
 - The [FIRST Ratings FAQ](#) was updated, and includes [instructions](#) for submitting a waiver related to the Annual Financial Report due date.
 - In collaboration with the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and FEMA, a TDEM-created [FAQ](#) was posted to correspond with the [webinar recording](#) of the TEA/TDEM conference call.
- Summary of Waivers
 - The [COVID-19 Related Waivers](#) summary document was updated to include the [TXVSN](#) course review and teacher PD requirements waiver and the FIRST Ratings [Annual Financial Report](#) waiver
- Assessment
 - Texas students are now able to take the [Optional End of Year Assessment](#) beginning May 11 through June 12.
 - Resources include a [parent and district toolkit](#), and links for [districts](#) and [parents](#) to register.
- SPED
 - Resources are updated daily on the newly revamped and stand-alone Special Education [webpage](#).
 - The Special Education [FAQ](#) is now completely updated in [Spanish](#).
 - The COVID-19 Special Education website now includes sections on [General Guidance](#), [Instructional Supports](#), and [Parent Resources](#).
 - On Thursday, a new FAQ related to [Compensatory Services and Extended School Year](#) posted, in addition to updates to the [Residential Program Guidance](#) and [Speech Language Therapy Guidance](#).
- Summer Learning Support: Texas Home Learning
 - We posted an [overview](#) of Texas Home Learning 2.0 – a tool specifically focused on at home learning during the summer. Resources include:
 - A sample Kindergarten [packet](#)
 - An exciting [announcement](#) to provide Texas students with access to digital books and articles, and
 - An example of how [Abilene ISD](#) has utilized Texas Home Learning to improve student outcomes.
- 2020-21 SY Planning: School Calendar Considerations
 - In addition to the overview [PPT](#), the [Additional Days School Year](#) reminder, and the initial [Changing School Start Date Guidance](#), several new resources were posted last week to support districts that are considering this change:
 - An [excel workbook](#) to support long-term planning.

- An [Intersessional Calendar](#) with Additional Days School Year example
 - The [COVID Response Calendar](#) example
 - A new [FAQ](#) related to the Additional Days School Year initiative.
 - Model calendars from [Clint](#), [Socorro](#), and [Coolidge](#) ISDs.
- We want to reiterate that this is an extraordinary change, particularly at this point in the school year. As such, we encourage you to start these critical conversations now with your stakeholders if this is an option you want to pursue for your school community.