

Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendents Calls As of: September 17

Next steps for districts and charters:

1. Bookmark TEA's 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:

- The TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call have moved to **Thursdays only** at 3:00pm. The call-in information has changed. Please use the call-in information sent via TEA's Superintendent Listserv on **August 13, 2020**.
- The TEA COVID-19 website is being updated to bifurcate 2019-2020 guidance more clearly with 2020-2021 guidance. Be on the lookout for these changes in the coming days.

Recap of topics covered:

- Public Health Guidance
 - Governor Abbott's [Executive Order-30](#) reaffirmed TEA's Public Health Guidance
 - The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) posted on [DSHS Website](#) the first aggregate statewide number of cases of COVID-19 reported by all Texas public schools. District level data is expected on Thursday, September 24.
 - This new reporting structure through the DSHS web portal does not replace the legal requirement that school districts notify public health officials in their area of all cases.
- Attendance and Enrollment
 - The [FAQ](#) was updated to include a deadline extension related to submitting class size waivers.
- Change to Close of 2020-20201 Start Date Window
 - A [TAA](#) was posted that announced that the deadline for districts to submit this information about returning students was extended to October 30, from September 25.
- Asynchronous and Synchronous Instruction
 - The current list of districts that have submitted Letters of Intent can be found [here](#). 432 asynchronous plans have been submitted and 222 have been approved.
 - The [Asynchronous Plans FAQ](#) was updated on September 17.
- Best Practices for Video Learning

- A new [website](#) was created to help districts ensuring educators know how to “look” (monitor their virtual classroom), “lock” (secure their virtual classroom), and “learn” (generate meeting IDs that require a password).
 - Quick tip PDFs were posted to support [Google Classroom](#), [Seasaw](#), [Microsoft Teams](#), and [Zoom](#).
- School Year Calendar Planning
 - The Additional Days School Year Intent to Participate window is open for interested districts.
 - TEA is collecting information via a Qualtrics survey about which LEAs are intending to benefit from Additional Days School Year (ADSY) funding in the 2020-2021 school year to better estimate the financial impact to the state.
- School Funding
 - Several new FAQs were posted to answer LEA questions:
 - An important update to the [CARES Act Equitable Services FAQ](#)
 - As TEA receives additional information regarding this matter, it will update its guidance accordingly. For clarifying information email staff at GrantSupport@tea.texas.gov.
 - An updated [CARES Act Funding and Expense Reimbursement FAQ](#) to reflect the new [20-21 FEMA FAQ](#) which includes changes to FEMA’s public assistance policies related to schools.
 - As a reminder, districts have until September 30 to apply for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) reimbursement through TDEM. TDEM posted a helpful [CRF FAQ](#).
- Project Restore
 - TEA launched [Project Restore](#), a trauma-informed training video series, which is designed to address this challenging time and connect educators to relevant science and strategies that can help them address their own emotional needs as well the needs of their students.
 - [Video 3: Understanding your students’ experiences](#) was posted last week. The rest of the training series videos will be added in the coming weeks.
 - [Facilitation Guides](#) are posted within videos to help school leaders facilitate a group professional development session with teachers and staff.
 - Users will receive a CPE certificate after completing a short quiz after each video, and completion of the video series meets the Senate Bill 11 trauma and grief training requirement for educators.
- School Safety
 - A TAA related to [Senate Bill 11 and the Safe Supportive Schools Program](#) was posted to include helpful information related to school safety during COVID.
- Optional Beginning of Year Assessment
 - Due to increasing interest from districts, the [FAQ](#) was updated to announce that the Optional Beginning of Year Assessments will now be available to administer until Friday, October 16 (from a previous deadline of September 25)
 - The registration window will close on Friday, October 9.
 - Specific instructions for districts and parents registration, as well as additional resources can be found in the [Beginning of Year Assessments \(BOY\) District and Parent Tools](#) webpage.

- Additional Updates
 - House Bill 3 created a new spending requirement related to compensation increases for school years when the basic allotment increases.
 - On Friday, September 11, TEA sent out an email to all superintendents via the superintendent listserv with a link to a Qualtrics survey that an LEA could fill out and submit the required information. TEA is asking that LEAs submit this survey by October 9 in Qualtrics.
 - Don't forget to fill out your [census](#) as the deadline is September 30!