



Texas Association of Community Schools

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• tacsnet.org

TACS Zoom Meeting Summary

Meeting with TACS and Sara Leon & Associates

Thursday, April 2, 2020

11:00 AM

Superintendent Call with TEA Overview

There are currently ~4,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Texas, with 48,000 people tested and 58 deaths. Now 148 counties in Texas have at least one case of COVID-19.

The Commissioner says he is 90% sure instruction can re-start on May 4; he plans to have an answer today or tomorrow for the superintendent call.

The school finance system will continue as long as instruction is happening. You will keep receiving funds even if your districts decide to continue doing online learning for the rest of the year.

Educators are considered essential workers, as are your food service workers. Some districts have expressed that they are concerned about meal pickups. To reduce their amount of interaction/the number of people coming to campus, some schools are cutting back to distributing meals 2-3 times a week to cover the entire week. For example, pick up on Monday morning includes one breakfast and one lunch for every day through Thursday. On Thursday morning they can pick up breakfasts and lunches for the remainder of the week.

Some safety tips for Instruction packet pickup/dropoff that were shared by Weimer ISD's superintendent Jon Wunderlich:

- Keep doors propped open on pickup day
- Packets can be dropped in something like a trash bag, and no one touches the packets for grading until the following day.
- Area sanitized before/after.

Keeping up communication with students and their families is paramount. Try to talk to parents about one great thing you are seeing in their child's work, and then one goal to work on.

TEA shared that Discipline Data Valuation is suspended currently. The original due date was April 3rd.

TEA has posted a FEMA FAQ ([link here](#)) and will be holding several applicant briefings. A link to the schedule of briefings is in the FAQ. Some of the things that FEMA will take care of is food reimbursement, but only what is above and beyond what you are already receiving through TEA. It will also assist with any above-and-beyond custodial costs. FEMA covers 75% and your district is responsible for the rest.

District policies regarding premium pay must have already been in effect. DEA (Local) If you haven't done one, it is recommended you fill one out now. TASB has a template put together for you to fill out. Contact your TASB representative for assistance.

Texas will receive between \$1-1.5 billion from federal government, but we're not sure how much money will actually flow out. Spend what you need right now, but keep track of everything.

General Updates from TEA

Under "Additional Guidance" on the [TEA COVID-19 resources page](#) click "COVID resources by ESC area" and there you can find the services offered in your region.

Several things have been newly added in the Instructional Continuity Planning Phases.

New in [Phase 1](#): Learning at home for Special Education Students from Austin ISD. Learning at home addresses several special education resources – physical activities, transition assistance, autism resources, behavior support support for students with visual impairments, resources for deaf/hard of hearing students, resources for students identified with dyslexia, content specific and early childhood resources are available as well.

New in [Phase 2](#): More AP updates added. TEA has listed exactly what AP exams will cover since they will be abbreviated this year. This is a great thing to send to your AP teachers!

New in [Phase 3](#): Updates to the [School Finance FAQ](#) For districts that didn't start their instructional delivery in time to meet the 75,600 that each district is required to meet and are now short, they just have to fill out a missed school waiver and count up all missed minutes. TEA understands that you needed time to properly prepare, so don't stress about this too much. The attestation statement is due by June 18 (can be retroactive). Only turn it in after you know how many days you'll be closed. None of us may know that for a while, so don't feel rushed to turn it in now since it will likely be retroactive. Some districts have already decided to close in-person classes for the rest of the year, or indefinitely.

Also added was the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations on how many minutes of media each age group should be participating in.

Among the AAP recommendations:

- For children younger than 18 months, avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting. Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality programming, and watch it with their children to help them understand what they're seeing.
- For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health.
- Designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms.
- Have ongoing communication about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect online and offline.

You can see the full guidance [here](#).

Finally, new in [Phase 4](#): TEA has added recommendations for virtual discipline and dress code. Essentially, they have Included chapter 37 for discipline. Their guidance includes several links to what other states are enacting for discipline/dress code.

We invite you to continue to visit [our website for updates and information](#),

Tomorrow's agenda items are:

- 4/1/20 TEA superintendent call recap
- Updates from TEA, our "TACS Notes"

Please join us tomorrow at 11 am by clicking here:

<https://zoom.us/j/220619743>

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