



Texas Association of Community Schools

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TACS Zoom Meeting Summary

Meeting with TACS and Sara Leon & Associates

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

11:00 AM

Commissioner's Call 5/26/20

As of yesterday, 906,074 COVID tests have been administered, with cases in 228 of Texas's 254 counties and 1,527 fatalities. The DHS website has now added antibody test numbers to their dashboard, and to date there have been 80,700 antibody tests administered.

The TEA COVID page still has the graduation videos from Commissioner Morath, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and the Secretary of State available if you'd like to play them at your graduation events.

The UIL webpage has [added summer guidance](#) on strength and conditioning programs.

The Commissioner said he will need schools' help in getting the info on the Pandemic EBT out to parents. You can see guidance on this nutrition program [here](#). Lone Star card holders will see the extra \$285 per child automatically placed on their cards, but others will need to apply for the benefits. TEA has now posted a [toolkit with a letter template](#) you can use for contacting parents. There is a communication schedule as well to use as a guide for email and social media blasts.

You will see new [Summer School Guidance for English Learners](#) added. Although 120 hours of supplementary instruction is still required, districts have the choice to defer summer program hours to this coming fall. There is a helpful chart in the guidance comparing requirements for traditional summer school for English learners and the 2020 requirements. Student progress reporting for summer school will be determined by school board. The student's teacher for next year should receive a copy of progress report for summer. The LEA should maintain the eligibility, attendance, and progress of students. Attendance may be recorded based on online participation and materials pickups.

Reimbursement amounts are based on teaching units only. LEAs receive approximately \$1300 per unit. Business managers should be informed that the fund code is 289 and that payment to the LEA will be provided through direct deposit.

Record this info in PEIMS as usual, due August 20, 2020. If you defer your summer programming until fall, it will be due in the following summer PEIMS report (Aug 26, 2021).

Changes to the TEA COVID Website

Assessment Guidance Updates

There was only one issue added that we haven't addressed in previous calls. Districts ARE required to provide early notice to parents or guardians of grade 4 and grade 7 students identified to be at risk of failure on the first administration of the assessment required for grade advancement next year. If a district doesn't have enough information to make a determination about a student's risk of failure, they should request a waiver from the Commissioner.

Instructional Continuity Card Update

East Chambers ISD has added the calendar they adopted in February 2020 as well as the calendar they are proposing this month for year-round school.

CARES Act Funding

See the new [CARES Act guidance here](#). They have posted your LEA entitlements [here](#). Keep in mind, these amounts are based on your Title I funding. Only LEAs who receive Title I, Part A funds in 2019-2020 are eligible for ESSER grants.

Last week, we covered the guidance up through page 7. Picking up where we left off, LEAs need to utilize all the funds received in fund 266 to offset allowable expenditures. There is not a supplement, not supplant stipulation with this fund. All the allowable expenditures are listed in the guidance.

Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), LEAs will be eligible for up to 75% of additive expenses incurred as of close of business May 20, 2020, to be reimbursed subject to a cap per LEA described below, and subject to CRF funding availability as described below. Each LEA will be capped at a reimbursement amount equal to the greater of \$50,000 or an amount equal to \$250 per compensatory education (SCE) student in the LEA. For LEAs with more than 200 SCE students, their reimbursement would be capped at an amount equal to \$250 per SCE student. This reimbursement will not be provided in addition to reimbursement from other expense reimbursement sources (such as FEMA).

For those wondering how they are defining additive costs “incurred as of close of business May 20, 2020,” you will find a chart in the guidance starting on page 9 reflecting obligation timelines. The application for CRF doesn’t open until July 20, 2020, and close on September 15, 2020. You will find a list of allowable expenses for CRF in the guidance on page 10-11. Keep in mind that CRF funds are only for newly added costs incurred due to COVID-19.

Furthermore, you cannot use CRF for payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID.

Some good news for public schools is that LEAs are not required to provide expense reimbursement to private schools from this fund source.

The CRF funds are not assigned a specific fund code number. Therefore, the LEA must use a local account code to designate this money in their books.

Lastly, you cannot include the 25% local match to the FEMA reimbursement program as part of the costs requested for reimbursement under the CRF Reimbursement program. Each type of reimbursable cost may only be submitted once to the applicable reimbursement program. The local cost match not covered by that reimbursement program, may not be requested under another reimbursement program.

We will go into more depth on CARES funds in our webinar with Dr. Brownson from TASBO today at 1:00 PM.

Upcoming Trainings

1. Sara Leon and Associates’ training on ADA essentials during COVID-19 will be Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 PM.
Registration URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclcOuurzwsH9fBefq-WpaO6yjmyHnQ8Re>
2. TASA’s Summer Conference is going virtual this year! The Summer Con will be held from June 9-12th. TACS will host a breakout session there. Agendas and more information can be found at <https://tasavirtualcon.org>.

Outstanding Questions to TEA

The following are the questions we have asked TEA on behalf of our members, to which we haven’t received a response yet:

- ~~Since certification tests are not happening right now, some districts are concerned that teachers who are currently employed will be unable to complete requirements for them to continue employment. With the 10 days before the end of instruction rules, will any of the certification requirements be waived – for example, will TEA give teachers another year to complete certification requirements?~~
- Is TEA working on any type of checklist for re-entry for students and/or teachers?
- ~~For the PEIMS information addressed in question 1 of the FAQ for Finance, could you give some examples for the following scenarios: 9-week reporting, and situations where the 5th six weeks started prior to spring break.~~

- ~~Will the waiver for CPR for seniors be placed on the waiver page?~~ **Waivers will be up soon!**
- In looking at vetting the instructional resources (as addressed in the latest information on Information Technology as of 4/9/2020), we wondered if the resources on TEA's pages have been vetted?
- Will there be any relaxations for STAAR for 20-21 based on the amount of time we will be spending catching students up?

If you have heard from TEA on any of these issues and have a response in writing, please forward it to Barry or Crystal so we may share the resource with our other members.

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

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Disclaimer: This information is accurate as of May 27, 2020. It is intended for informational and educational purposes only, and is not a substitute for legal advice.