



# Texas Association of Community Schools

1011 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste. 204 Austin, TX 78701-1924 Phone: 512-440-8227 ·  
FAX: 512-442-6705 · tacsnet.org

## TACS Zoom Meeting Summary

Meeting with TACS and Sara Leon & Associates

Monday, July 13, 2020

11:00 AM

### **7/9/2020 Superintendent Call**

The Commissioner says we are 2-3 weeks out from seeing a checklist on what to do if staff or student tests positive. In terms of alerting the community, a good policy is “Don’t tell who, but do tell where.” For instance, say that a case was reported “on the elementary campus” instead of naming the student or teacher. He suggests collaborating with the health department and letting them report. He also discussing developing exercises in disseminating information so you have a system down by the time school starts.

He talked about screening procedures; some districts are now receiving the PPE items that the state ordered. Face shields are especially helpful for young students who benefit from seeing a teacher’s full face.

Several associations, including TACS, are pulling for more flexibility regarding attendance and feel 3-weeks is not enough.

If you don’t know who your local health authority is and want their input in making local decisions, click [here](#).

TEA is rolling out a learning management system. There will be more info coming out this week for districts who don’t have their own LMS.

### **Updates to TEA Website**

#### **Waivers, Finance, and Grant card**

The SY 20-21 [Attendance and Enrollment FAQ has been updated](#). The new question #11 says that funding is provided for each day attendance occurs. If no attendance is marked for a given day – remote or on campus – no funding is provided for that day. If school is ordered closed, you will have to make those days at the end of the year to receive the funding.

Question #19 asks if the board needs to meet to approve the synchronous instruction attestation/ asynchronous plan or if board members can just sign the documents individually. Yes. Board action is only valid if authorized in a public meeting through a vote of the board. However, the board can vote in advance of the final attestation/plan submission to authorize the superintendent to submit the attestation/plan once the attestation/plan is finalized by the superintendent.

Asynchronous plan rubric that includes “look-for’s” and the letter of intent needs to be completed/submitted prior to first day. They will have exemplars soon. The synchronous attestation is online currently.

Question 29 asks if LEAs can require a student to come on campus to complete assignments for certain electives while the student is being served through one of the remote instruction methods. Yes. The exception is UIL activity classes (see question 32 on this guidance). LEAs must communication which courses will have on-campus requirements and notify parents/students before the start of the course to let them know failure to complete this part will cause them to not receive credit.

Question 30 says that LEAs may create a list of CTE courses that require on-campus instruction. Be sure that you notify students and parents that the on-campus instruction or assessments will be required in order to pass and/or receive credit for the course.

Question 32 says LEAs may develop a local policy that would exclude students who are learning remotely from all extracurricular activities if they choose to do so.

If you want to share what your district is thinking related to extracurricular activities for remote learners, [here is a shared Google Doc](#) with lots of schools sharing their ideas.

Question 41 discusses tracking student engagement through asynchronous learning. Tracking ADA requires one measure of student engagement per day, not one measure of student engagement per day per course. However, in order for HS students specially to meet the 90/10 requirement for credit, there will need to be a way to determine student attendance for each course. Having an LMS can help. Homeroom teachers can call students and check in on their progress across assignments/courses each day, ensuring students have made progress in each course each day.

The [General State Funding FAQ](#) has been updated. Question 3 asks how should LEAs reflect the ESSER / FSP Interplay and Fund 199/266 as part of the 2020- 2021 Adopted Budget? This revenue can be used to offset 2019-2020 expenses, and because this is helping to fund the 2019-2020 ADA hold harmless, this revenue could be recorded in the final budget amendment (and booked as a receivable, if necessary) in the 2019-2020 school year, not 2020-2021. The FIRST indicator 9 may show a loss in points if there is an operating loss. You may pass if you have 60+ days of cash on hand.

The [CARES Act Equitable Services FAQ](#) has also been updated. You can either use old rules or these updated ones. According to newly added question 5, all students and teachers in a PNP school are eligible to receive equitable services. You have to show all students there are served.

Question 3 under Requirements for Providing the CARES Act PNP Equitable Services says that the district may serve all PNP school students and teachers without regard to family income, residency, or eligibility based on low achievement. Districts must provide equitable services, materials, equipment, and other benefits.

Question 6 says if they ask for services under ESSA now but in consultation they declined, you do not have to provide them and can remind them that they declined. Keep all documentation.

Question 1 under the Determining Proportional Share for the CARES PNP Equitable Services section asks how a district determines the proportional share of funds that must be reserved to provide equitable services to PNP school students and teachers under the CARES Act programs. This answer comes in 3 parts:

- A. Use total allocation to determine proportional share
- B. Use methodology chosen by the district
- C. Count students ages 5-17 (on agreed upon cutoff date). Any student in EC-12 may be served, regardless of age.

Question 3 in this section gives the formula for PNP schools. It is essentially  $\text{Total} / \# \text{ of participating ages 5-17} = \text{PNP per pupil amount}$ .

### **Instructional Continuity Planning card**

This page continues to showcase the Strong Start planning guide. They added a free training for Texas principals; it is a 75-minute interactive video that will be available from July 20 - August 10. The [Additional Days School Year](#) guidance has been updated. ADSY is only for pre-K through 5th grade.

In the Funding and ADA section they've added question 5, which asks how remote instruction will impact you if you're doing ADSY. You still have to meet 180 days, can be done remote or on campus, and must be full days. There is a helpful chart at the link (page 5).

### **Student Assessment Card**

They added guidance/the To the Administrator Addressed correspondence on the [Optional Beginning of Year Assessments](#). There are several key dates noted and a webinar tomorrow the 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM on the BOY Optional Assessments. The Zoom link is in the linked document.

### **Other**

Jill Siler of Gunter ISD was helpful in providing us this [one-pager](#) for small school considerations, as we've had many questions coming up regarding teachers and other staffing concerns. [Here is also a doc](#) on brainstorming staffing for small schools.

Dr. Tammy Boyette of Warren ISD reports that health officials have grants we might be able to use for nurses and CNAs. It's the CRF Grant through the Texas Division of Emergency Management and can be used on expenses through Dec 30, 2020. They received a bunch of free face shields. The PPE being sent by TEA may include face shields as well. \*\*\*Update, we are doing further checking on this because the majority of people who contacted us have said they contacted their Emergency Management person and were told it is not allowable. It might be a special situation only for districts who had agreements in place prior to COVID-19 for emergency situations.\*\*\*

We were asked if LEAs have local control on wearing masks on buses. The protocol we've seen is if they ride the bus, they should sanitize hands, wear a mask, and socially distance with anyone not in their family/household. Students under age 10 is a local decision, as it's obviously tough to enforce masks with young children for bus drivers who do not know their ages when they see them.

We were also asked to share the info on playground, buses, and recess – you can see that information [here](#).

Barry Haenisch, Executive Director

806-570-7876

Dr. Crystal Dockery, Deputy Executive Director

806-679-9690

Melanie Zumm, External Affairs Coordinator

mzumm@tacsnet.org

*Disclaimer: This information is accurate as of July 13, 2020. It is intended for informational and educational purposes only, and is not a substitute for legal advice.*