

TACS Superintendent Call

September 18, 2020

- [SY 20-21 Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#)

Class size exceptions- page 21.

1. K – 4 is still 22 to 1 unless you are a district of innovation (or a charter). This requirement also applies to remote instruction. TEC 255.112 required notification of the computer no later than October 1st or the 30th day after the first day of school. If you are requesting an exception, use the Maximum Class Size Exception on the TEAL waiver.
2. The agency will take late submissions through December 1, 2020 due to the effects of COVID-19.

- [Department of State Health Services Texas Public Schools COVID-19 Data](#)

This is located on the Public Health Orders card – Tools, Templates, and Resources. Collaborative with TEA – public school COVID-19 cases. 2,344 cases currently out of the 1.1 million students who have been on campus for instruction or other activities this school year. 2,175 staff members of the 800,078 staff that have been on campus have also tested positive.

- [SY 20-21 Texas Public School Start Dates \(PDF\)](#)

Reflects the start date by enrollment and LEA %.

- [Executive Order no. GA-30 relating to the continued response to the COVID-19 disaster as Texas reopens \(PDF\)](#)

No big changes for the school world. Increased percentages for retail, restaurants, museums and libraries, etc. It is effective September 21, 2020 at 12:01 am

- [Best Practices for Video Learning](#)

This can be found on the ICP card and the Reporting and Data card. It focuses on Look, Lock and Learn.

Look at your application version to make sure it is up to date.

Lock the classroom when you schedule a meeting. Use a unique meeting ID., waiting room, and restricted sharing configured. Don't publicly share meeting links. Don't admit anyone that is not recognized.

Learn about detailed security considerations – Google, Seesaw, Teams, and Zoom

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- [SY 20-21 Asynchronous Plan FAQ \(PDF\)](#) on the Instructional Continuity Planning Card. There is an October 1st deadline in order to get the feedback from TEA. About 220 have been approved, the majority of those have been approved after the first time. The FAQ for this does have 3 new questions.

Question 9 deals with what to do if you have an upload snafu. You would need to restart the survey.

Question 12 addresses the reminder that synchronous instruction is not required. Please revisit the Asynchronous Plan rubrics to show you what is required.

Question 21 has a few reminders if you were not planning to submit an Asynchronous Plan. If you have to go remote during a quarantine or a closure, you will not receive funding for attendance during that time. The hold harmless or grace period is only through December. There is also a caution that students may go to other districts if you fail to offer a remote option.

Commissioner Morath reminded everyone on the call that the remote option does have to go through the entire school year.

- [CARES Act Funding and Expense Reimbursement FAQ \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Texas Department of Emergency Management \(TDEM\) Coronavirus Relief Fund \(CRF\) FAQ \(PDF\)](#) - TDEM FAQ is a new link. Keep in mind there are only 10 days left to submit. So far only 94 LEA's have completed while they do show that 520 districts have started the application process.
- [CARES Act Equitable Services FAQ \(PDF\)](#) – includes an update from the court case that was discussed last week.
- [SY 20-21 FEMA FAQ \(PDF\)](#) PPE is not covered and only one cleaning is covered from the spring. The comments were that they are not covering for the cleaning that typically takes place in preparation for the new school year anyway.

[Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call – September 10 \(PDF\)](#)

- <https://www.texasprojectrestore.org/> is the link for the new video “Understanding your students’ experiences”. These are 30-minute videos. Next week’s video is “Building Secure Relationship”

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The commissioner referenced several new To the Administrator Addressed letters

09-17-2020 - Press Release: [DSHS and TEA Launch Webpage with COVID-19 Case Data Reported by Texas Public Schools](#)

09-17-2020 - TAA: [Change to Close of 2020-21 School-Start Window](#) – deals with the leaver codes. Extension to 10/30/2020. The extension of the window is effective statewide to accommodate local education agencies that have opened late because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students served in the prior year must return to school by the end of the school-start window to not be considered leavers.

09-17-2020 - TAA: [Additional Days School Year Intent to Participate for 2020-2021](#) – please complete this survey even if you are not planning to add days.

09-17-2020 - TAA: [Senate Bill 11 Data Requirement and Safe and Supportive Schools Program \(SSSP\)](#) Several links in this letter including school drill guidance under social distancing restrictions, mandatory drill rules, conducting bleeding control training under COVID-19 conditions, School police officer duty restrictions from the 86th Legislature, operation and instructional time waivers for school safety training, and the mental health resources and updates. A survey will be coming out in November requiring districts to collect a minimal amount of data regarding LEA behavioral threat assessments conducted by SSSP (Safe and Supportive School Program) teams and the training they received. The first part is a mandatory requirement and the second part is optional to help TEA and the Texas School Safety Center find gaps and needs LEA's still have. Mandatory questions are listed in the letter.

He also gave a reminder about the Beginning of Year Assessments. They did extend the deadline for registration through October 9, 2020 and administration opportunities through 10/16/2020.

A question was asked about requesting an additional 4 weeks of remote instruction. Reminders of how to do that waiver are explained in the Attendance and Enrollment FAQ (linked above) under the Back-to-school transition. It does require a board vote and will still require you to provide on-site instruction to the students who need that method of instruction.

If you want to continue to offer a hybrid, you can do that; however, you **MUST** do a waiver if you are only offering a hybrid rather than 5 days (or 4 if you are a 4 day a week district) on-site instruction.

Finally, he discussed the email sent to superintendents about the HB 3 salary survey submission. It is required that you report the information to the legislature and TEA is helping the process by putting the survey together. If you did not receive the correspondence, please contact your ESC. My understanding is that there will be webinars on this next week at 4 pm, though I haven't seen the actual letter to confirm those dates.

Additional “stuff”:

Committee members are on our website. Some are missing pictures and if you are one of those folks with no photo, please send one my way!

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Membership reminders – [Can you put your usual stuff here?](#)

Legislative Agenda – [Can you link it here?](#)

Items we have added after meeting with our legislative committee will deal with the Internet Access for students and we are working on verbiage for the TIA discussions.

A recent study based on Census data showed Texas ranked 46th in overall Internet and computer access. 70% of students in metropolitan areas had access, while only 50% of students in rural areas had access.

TIA – Teacher Incentive Allotment – 3,650 teachers and \$40 million dollars. \$3,000 - \$32,000 annually will be added to a highly effective teachers' salary.

A recent document from Texas Classroom Teacher Association discussed the Class B Misdemeanor (that has been in effect long before COVID-19) for administrators or other school employees who suspect that a student or staff member has a communicable disease fail to report it to a local health authority. This misdemeanor could result in up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

A September 8th finding of DSHS stated 21 cases of MIS-C (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children) ages 9 months – 17 have been identified in Texas. This is the serious complication associated with COVID in which certain organs are inflamed – like the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. 2/3 of these cases were Hispanic children and 60% were males.

Melanie is on vacation, so if stuff isn't quite as pretty, we are sorry! She makes us look good and we hope she is enjoying herself! She is still sending reminders for us – that is dedication to the job! 😊