



Texas Association of Community Schools

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ASSOCIATION
INSURANCE
MANAGEMENT INC



SARA LEON
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August 18, 2020 Communique

Calendar

August 2020 Reminders:

Admin & Leadership

- Review inclement weather and safety protocols with admin team
- Hold district/campus SBDM Committee elections
- Distribute/publish Notification of Parents' Rights
- Distribute copies of TEC§37 and local discipline policies to staff before start of school
- Review/amend Student Cod of Conduct and post on
- Review sexual harassment procedures with staff/students
- Annual UIL Mandatory training for Academic/Athletic Staff (UIL Safety and Concussion Training)
- Required Anti-bullying Training
- Update AskTED
- Tax Information Survey due

August 31

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Publish Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in CTE Programs

Child Nutrition

- Pandemic EBT applications due
- ##### August 21

Federal/State Programs

- Federal programs compliance report due for previous year
- Review/implement district/campus improvement plans in accordance with district planning process

Finance

“WHAT WOULD MY MOM THINK OF THAT?”

In an international cross-country competition in December, 2012, in Navarre, Spain, an athlete representing Kenya, Abel Mutai was just a few feet from the finish line, but he was confused with the signage and stopped, thinking that he had completed the race. The Spanish athlete Ivan Fernandez Anaya was behind him in second place, and, realizing what was happening, started shouting to the Kenyan to continue running. Since Abel didn't understand Spanish, he just looked at Ivan confused. It was then that the Spanish runner pushed/pulled Abel across the finish line to victory.



Mutai had just won a bronze medal for the Men's 3000m Steeplechase in the London Olympics the summer before. Anaya was aiming to be considered among the elite of Spanish cross-country runners.

After the race a journalist asked Ivan, “Why did you do that?”

Ivan replied, “I didn't deserve to win. He had created a gap I could not close if he hadn't made a mistake.”

-Prepare final budget amendments for prior year for Sept 1 FY
-Approve Annual Financial Audit for July 1 FY
-Post on website adopted tax rate that will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's rate (if applicable)
-Post on website summary of proposed budget
-Prominently post on website for three years an external link to the adopted budget
-Publish Notice of Public Meeting to discuss budget & proposed tax rate (publish at least 10 days before meeting) for Sept 1 FY
-Post 72-hour notice of meeting to discuss budget & proposed tax rate
-Hold meeting to adopt budget & proposed tax rate on or before August 31st for Sept 1 FY
-Publish statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for July 1 FY
-Submit 2020 TEA tax info survey
-Post metered amounts of electricity, water, and gas consumption for which the district is required to pay and aggregate amounts of service

School Board

-Hold public hearing/adopt budget for Sept 1 FY
-Approve health insurance rates (as appropriate)
-Order of Trustee election, schedule board candidate workshop, & post notice for November election
-MOU with juvenile board for districts in counties over 125,000 by **September 1**
-Adopt Student Code of Conduct
-Adopt district/campus improvement plan
-Establish/approve Local School Health Advisory Council
-Approve waivers as needed

The journalist insisted, "But why did you let the Kenyan win?"

"I didn't let him win. He was going to win," came the reply. The journalist was almost speechless. "But you could have won!" he almost yelled.

Ivan looked at him and replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor of the medal? What would my Mom think of that?"

Not everyone, of course, agreed with Ivan. His coach said, "A gesture of that kind isn't made any more. The gesture made him a better human, but not a better athlete. He wasted an occasion. Winning always makes you a better athlete."

In this case, however, Ivan got the last word. This is what he said: "In this race there was hardly anything at stake apart from being able to say that I had beaten an Olympic medalist. But even if they had told me that winning would have earned me a place on the Spanish team for the European Championship, I wouldn't have done it either. I think I have earned more of a name having done what I did than if I had won. And that is very important because today with the way things are in all circles, in soccer, in society, in politics where it seems that anything goes, a gesture of honesty goes down well."

And besides, what would his Mom think?!!

TACS MEMBERSHIP 2020-21

As we begin our membership drive season, we will be including links to our membership materials in each Communique so they are always accessible. It's a legislative year, which means this is a fantastic opportunity to stay connected with us if you'd like to receive updates and resources on advocacy efforts. **For your reference, 28.7% of TACS membership dues go towards advocacy, which includes advocating on behalf of small and mid-sized districts with SBOE, SBEC, TEA, and the Texas Legislature.**

We are stronger in numbers! We hope you'll join us.

- [TACS Membership Invoice](#)
- [Why Join TACS?](#)
- [TACS Membership Online Payment](#) (do note, there is a credit card surcharge if you pay online)

TEXAS EDUCATORS VOTE

Fill out the Census

It's back-to-school time and your "to do" list probably looks a lot different than most years. While we navigate the murky waters of life during COVID-19, being able to



check something off your list will make you feel a little bit better. **This week – make sure you complete the census!**

The U.S. census is undertaken every 10 years in order to count the total number of U.S. residents, including citizens, legal residents, long-term visitors, and undocumented immigrants. Earlier this month, the Census Bureau announced that people would have one month less than expected to respond to the 2020 census count. The newly announced deadline is September 30th. While most states have dedicated millions of dollars to completing the Census, Texas has allocated ZERO. It is urgent that we get an accurate count and time is running short.

“An incomplete count directly imperils the future of the state because the census flows down to Texans’ daily lives for an entire decade. It serves as the funding basis for everything from early childhood programs to highway planning and construction. Data derived from the count is used for community building, guiding where grocery stores are built and whether schools will be large enough to host students in a community. The once-a-decade count is also about power, with the population figures used to determine how many seats Texas gets in Congress and how to distribute voters into political districts.” Read more about the importance of a complete count in this [Texas Tribune Article](#).

The census is easy to complete, and extremely important to public education, to representation, and to securing resources for your community and the state of Texas. Here is a [link to the U.S. Census Bureau](#) with all sorts of information about how to be counted.



RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT/FUNDING

Raise Your Hand Texas has launched a new campaign to both support efforts to drive enrollment in public schools across the state and encourage people to reach out to their state representatives and tell them to support our public schools. The overarching theme is “A strong Texas recovery requires strong public schools.” Districts are encouraged to share the following on social media or within your communities as appropriate:

- [Campaign landing webpage](#) with [video](#) (voice provided by TASA President Brian Woods)
- [Facebook post with video](#)
- [Twitter post with video](#)

REMEMBERING ROBIN PEREZ

We were saddened to learn that former Nederland ISD superintendent Robin Perez passed away last week following a long battle with cancer. Robin was a wonderful educator and friend to TACS, being a longtime member and serving on our committees. Nederland's Assistant Superintendent and Lone Finalist Stuart Kieschnick put it the best: "Perez has not only made an impact on my life but thousands of educators and students across the state of Texas. She worked tirelessly for our schools to ensure they could be the best they could be. She cared deeply about our students and staff no matter the situation. It was an honor to work beside her and I know many more who would say the same."

Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and community as we mourn the loss of Robin.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Sexual Harassment Complaints Under the New Title IX Regulations: A Specialized Three-Part Live, Interactive Training on How to Report, Respond and Investigate

Join attorneys John Janssen, Michelle Alcala, and Michael Roseberry on August 27, 2020 at 9:00 am for a three-hour live webinar training on the new Title IX regulations (which go into effect August 14, 2020). This three-part webinar is designed for specialized audiences and will help you implement the new regulations successfully.

[Learn More and Register.](#)

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Learn More About Germinator Mobile Sanitizing

Learn more about how you can disinfect your campus in a safe, non-toxic, and efficient way for when staff or students are returning to school.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

News from TEA

CARES Act Funding Update

On July 29, Cory Green, TEA Associate Commissioner for Grant Compliance and Administration, provided program and funding updates for the CARES Act. The briefing was recorded and is [available online](#). There are no additional handouts or materials from this briefing to be shared. Questions, concerns, or requests for additional guidance can be directed to GrantSupport@tea.texas.gov.

Preliminary 2019-20 FIRST Ratings Available

School districts' preliminary 2019-20 School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) ratings are now [available online](#). If your district wishes to appeal an adverse issue it identifies in the preliminary rating, your district may submit a written appeal with supporting evidence to the [TEA Financial Compliance Division](#) by September 8. [Learn more.](#)

OnRamps Distance Learning Webinar

The OnRamps Distance Learning Catalog is a series of online professional development modules designed to support middle and high school teachers, specifically of grades 5-12, who will be teaching in distance or hybrid learning environments.

As of last Thursday, five of the 20 modules are being offered to all eligible teachers in Texas for free. They reflect the evolving needs of teachers and districts at this unprecedented time and allow users to explore concise, curated content at their own pace.

Teachers will be given one hour of CPE credit for completion of each module. To learn more about the free program, [tune in to a live webinar](#) Tuesday, August 18 at 3 PM

[See TEA's recent TAA letter about this OnRamps program.](#)

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