



Texas Association of Community Schools

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TACS Zoom Meeting Summary Zoom
Meeting with TACS and Sara Leon & Associates
Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:00 AM

Premium Pay

The idea of premium pay was initially established after the hurricanes in the Gulf region. Many districts there wanted a solution that would allow them to pay staff during school closure or while working under hazardous conditions. Not every district has opted for this policy. In districts with premium pay, staff gets extra pay while working when school is closed. This is, of course, unsustainable for some school districts. TASB sent out the recommendation that you replace that policy with a board resolution that allows the superintendent to determine when/if premium pay sets in.

The employees who are eligible will be determined by your local policy DEA. Many Gulf coast districts have elected to have automatic premium pay. Sara Leon of Sara Leon & Associates recommends everyone record hours worked and have a timesheet to ensure no one is going overtime. The Department of Labor created an app to record time and effort if you don't have a timesheet or computer system yet. Link [here](#).

TEA and USDE Updates – TACS Notes

There are several updates pertaining to food. First, the Texas Department of Agriculture announced their "Meals to You" program. It's a partnership with the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty to support meal delivery to nearly a million students, on a first-come first-serve basis. Targeted for rural school, so you have to be rural school closed due to COVID to apply. They are kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals. To be eligible, you be a rural school closed for 4 weeks or more due to COVID-19. For more information, visit. www.mealstoyou.org

Another development is that some restaurants will now be able to accept SNAP benefits as payment,

TDA has approved a waiver to allow parents to pick up meals from school sites without students being present. Some discussion took place regarding this subject. Crystal reviewed the FAQ on TDA's website and the information dated 3/25/2020 at 6:11:52 PM question #21 addresses this question.

21. May I provide a meal to a parent when the child is not present?

The answer depends on the meal distribution plan and the type of site.

For open site pick-up, such as curbside or grab-and-go, a child must be present to receive a meal per regulation.

If utilizing home delivery to a specific address in accordance with guidance in this FAQ, a parent may receive the meal at the door without a child present, or the meal may be left at the door.

A closed enrolled site can allow a parent to pick up a meal without a child present under the following conditions:

- The child must be listed on the site's enrollment roster. (Note: If the site is in a non-eligible area, the site must ensure that 50% of the children on the roster are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.)
- The parent provides identification confirming the parent's identity and/or connection to the child.

Due to the nature of this public health emergency, TDA strongly suggests that SSO and SFSP operators communicate health and safety protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or their local public health authority to parents and the communities where the programs are being operated. If there are sick children and/or

parents, other options may be available to obtain meals such as home delivery. As noted above, home deliveries do not require the child to be present at the door to accept the meal(s). If the SSO or SFSP operator is not approved to offer home deliveries, other community resources may be available to assist the family such as from the local food bank or pantry.

Reading academies

Reading academies are currently being done remotely and proceeding as planned. TEA will continue to assess timelines on weekly basis but right now they are continuing as usual.

Individual Graduation Committees

A few updates/clarifications: Seniors who are enrolled for the 19-20 school year may graduate with IGC determination regardless of the number of EOCs they need to pass, but they must still successfully complete curriculum required for HS graduation. Any student who is scheduled to complete in spring 2020 but does not have opportunity to retake an EOC is not required to pass it, but they must successfully complete the IGC process. A student who is on schedule to graduate and to take an EOC for the first time is NOT required to pass that specific test to graduate and they do not need an IGC. For instance, if a high school junior is on track and taking heavy load in order to graduate in May has to take an EOC but aren't able to due to the closure, they may graduate and an IGC is not needed for them to graduate.

Schools may not establish an initial IGC after June 10. For a student to graduate in spring 2020, a decision must be made before Aug 31. If the final determination is made after that, the student will still graduate but with the next graduating class.

Wage Garnishments

Wage garnishments are to cease for 60 days, so make sure your district's payroll is aware of that. This applies to federal student loans.

Transportation

In terms of transportation, keep in mind that miles that are being driven need to be logged differently. If miles driven are for food service delivery, make sure to log those differently because they don't count toward the transportation allotment.

Waivers

Every local education agency (LEA) is required to apply for a waiver for missed school days. You have to wait until the end of the school year to figure out what days to include in your waiver. TEA wants only one waiver for all days missed, so you will need to wait until you are returning to school to submit one. For now, start recording all days that are missed days - "Closed, instructing," "Closed, preparing" and "Closed, temporary." The waivers need board approval and can be submitted until June 18, 2020.

Testing

The ACT/SAT are suspended through June. If students had already paid for a test, they will be refunded.

International Baccalaureate exams will not be administered in 2020. IB is awarding students a diploma/certificate showing they met standards through the time of completion.

AP exams are still taking place; they will now be in the form of a 45-minute, online, free-response exam. College Board's website has some blueprints if your AP teachers want to share with the students so they know what to expect.

Grading Guidance

Districts should make sure they're clearly establishing how this will be done. Some ideas are using pass/fail, have no grades recorded but provide feedback, or photographing/scanning work.

All districts are required to give grades within 12 week period in order to comply with TEC 28.022(a)(2). If students are not performing satisfactorily, they must be notified within a 3 week period according to TEC 28.022(a)(3). Students must show proficiency and credit by exam can be used to show it. Proportionate credit can be given as well.

GPA's are a local decision, as is class rank. Just make sure it is equitable for all students. Remember that districts must identify the top 25% for college admission purposes

Attendance meetings for students are still required for students who were not at 90% attendance prior to COVID-19 and need to be followed through on.

Video Conferences/Classrooms

There have been concerns raised by districts about using Zoom/Google classroom for classes and meetings. One question in particular was what happens if class is in progress and one attendee has something inappropriate happen within their home? Regular student code of conduct things could apply if it is a student behavior; however, what if it is a parent behaving inappropriately? Try to discuss a plan with teachers, we recommend that each time you start a video meeting, go over the rules and guidelines. We'll have to monitor and adjust as we go. Involving your technology folks - or teachers that are very technologically savvy- work with your teachers who struggle with operating the technology.

For those looking for additional resources, if you are AASA member, they have a lot of webinars discussing these topics on their website.

Ideas for Improving District Morale

Several superintendents shared that they passed out sunblock and water to staff members who were passing out student packets. Some districts are turning the football field lights on for hour in evening (8-9 PM) as a symbol of hope and assurance that their students are in their hearts and minds.

We invite you to continue to visit our website for updates and information.

Tomorrow's agenda items are:

- What's new since yesterday: TACS Notes
- Best practices for virtual classrooms/conferences - sharing of ideas

Please join us tomorrow at 11 am by clicking here: <https://zoom.us/j/804190846>

Meeting ID: 804 190 846

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Disclaimer: This information is accurate as of March 26, 2020. It is intended for informational and educational purposes only, and is not a substitute for legal advice.