



Texas Association of Community Schools

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TACS Zoom Meeting Summary Zoom
Meeting with TACS and Sara Leon & Associates
Friday, March 27, 2020
11:00 AM

General Updates

Region 12 is hosting video conferences on a variety of topics; they are a good virtual resource to look into during this time.

The Department of Agriculture updated the Q & A on their [Square Meals website](#) and as of March 24th, they had approved a waiver (Nationwide) for parental meal pickup without the child present.

The summary of the most recent superintendent conference call (March 26th) was posted on TEA's site. You can also view it [here](#)

Next week TEA is hosting an Instructional Continuity Info webinar from 9-10:00 AM every morning. We'd recommend signing up or having a staff member attend.

The Superintendent Response Checklist created service centers is being updated daily; TACS will be updating our page as well. View [here](#)

School Finance

PEIMS documentation – PEIMS clerks should change the end date of the 4th six week reporting period to the last day of instruction before the campus closed due to COVID-19.

For the 5th six week reporting period, clerks should change the beginning and end dates to the time span the campus was closed. This includes "Closed - Temporary," "Closed - Instruction," and "Closed - Preparing." Individual student attendance will be reported with no absences during this timeframe.

PEIMS clerks should change the beginning date of the 6th 6-week reporting period to the first day students are allowed back on campus for face-to-face instruction. The end date of the 6th six weeks be will reported as the last day of instruction.

If the LEA does not return to school, they will not report the 6th six weeks for any student.

Special Education

Health and safety is the number one priority.

Make every effort to continue IEPs and meet the needs of all children.

Communicate well and often with parents and document any changes.

Hold as many meetings as necessary using distance technology.

At the district level, try to create a form/template that all campuses can use to document and comply with IEP. If any districts have examples, please send to TACS for us to share on our resources page.

SHARS billing modifications are happening currently. If you have programming questions, contact Angela Foote at TEA at angela.foote@tea.texas.gov or 512-463-6639. If you have questions on SHARS billing, contact Brittney Taylor at brittney.taylor@hhsc.state.tx.us.

LEA reporting and submission requirements for State Performance plans will not be adjusted. Hans (Sara Leon & Associates) noted that in the webinar he attended this week with Justin Porter from TEA, they stated that date would be modified. According to what is in writing on the FAQ right now it won't. We'll keep you posted if we see something different in writing.

Deadlines

As far as deadlines go, any materials that were due prior to April 10 will now be due on April 20th. If due between April 11 and May 3rd, deadlines are extended two additional weeks.

Instruction

Districts have been wondering how long should kids be working at home on schoolwork during the closures. Some sources have recommended up to or less than an hour a day for younger students and up to 3 to 3.5 hours for students who are seniors in high school. If your district has guidelines you are using, please share with TACS and we will add it to our resource page.

Wage Garnishment

The 60-day waivers for wage garnishing applies to student loans. Child support is NOT waived for the 60 days.

Using Title Funds for Hot Spots

TEA has added info on their COVID page about how to help students with internet access challenges. One superintendent Barry spoke with is encouraging families who have internet access to take advantage of online learning because the packets are time intensive for staff and students.

If your district is looking to expand internet access using hotspots, document all the costs involved because with the \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus package coming, districts may be able to get reimbursed for creating learning opportunities.

Currently there are other funds available that districts could use to expand their internet access to cover a wider area by creating hotspots:

- Title 1, Part A funds may be used if you have a school-wide title campus, but ONLY if you have included it in your campus comprehensive needs assessment. However, you can update your CNA at any time, as needs arise. You can update the CNA to include this going forward if need be.
- Title 4, Part A might also be a source of funding, if local funds haven't been used this year or the prior year for internet expansion.

Before proceeding, contact your ESC title representative or federal programs employee to verify this information so you don't jeopardize the use of federal funds.

Diana Barrera Ugarte of Kenedy ISD shared that her district asked a local business to donate money for hotspots and they did.

Additionally, if you have cable connectivity with Suddenlink, Spectrum, Comcast, or Cable One, these companies are offering 30 to 60 days of free internet access for families who are first time customers. AT&T, T mobile and Verizon also have deals worth looking into.

Competitive Bidding and EDGAR

Sara Leon & Associates has been receiving a lot of questions about exceptions to competitive bidding and EDGAR for purchasing such things as hotspots. They will provide information for our members soon.

Other

We are waiting for calls back regarding teacher certifications; there is a bit of delay because TEA is waiting on federal answers.

We are also sadly reporting the first death of current educator in one of our member districts: Mike Westbrook, the high school band director at Hardin Jefferson ISD. We send our prayers and condolences to his family and friends, and the entire HJISD community.

Please join us for our meeting next Monday, March 30. We will be discussing:

- School Board FAQ
- School Finance FAQ
- Providing services to homeless students

How to Join:

Topic: TACS Member Daily Debriefing Meeting

Time: Mar 30, 2020 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/220619743>

Meeting ID: 220 619 743

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aecodrrHCg>

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