

Texas Education Agency COVID-19 Hearing

March 10, 2020

TEA is in an operational and preparedness planning phase for COVID-19

Recent communications to the field:

- Three informational To the Administrator Addressed letters sharing information from DSHS about COVID-19 and prevention.
- TEA has solicited frequently asked questions/concerns from select districts and charters to support our planning approach.

Collaborative planning:

- Participated in a briefing with the Governor and state leadership
- Twice weekly meetings at the State Operations Center
- Frequent contact with DSHS, TDEM, OOG, ESC Directors, and school districts
- Three internal operational planning teams launched

Districts have the authority to make decisions around closure or quarantine.

- TEA's guidance is focused on ensuring districts are in communication with their local health authorities in order to make the most informed decision possible

TEA encourages districts and charter schools to continue to do what's in the best interest of their students, families, and communities.

Operationalizing our preparedness efforts

Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART):

Senior agency staff meet to plan, prepare, and, if necessary, respond to disasters

CV 19 Task Force:

Select members of DART have been selected to participate in the CV-19 Task Force, specifically focused on pandemics

COOP Task Force:

Select agency staff are designated to plan and prepare for continuity of TEA services to school districts in the event of a disaster or pandemic

Questions from the field

Currently working to address the following issues:

- **Preparedness protocols**
- **Funding**
- **Assessment and accountability**
- **Breakfast/lunch**
- **Communications support**
- **Policy and legal questions**
- **Basic health/COVID-19 information**



- Updated information will be included in a new website, “To The Administrator Addressed” letters, and via social media
- Website: tea.texas.gov
- Email address: disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov