

Questions and Answers – February 2021

Below is a list of questions that were submitted during the Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HM&AR) presentation on Thursday, February 4th, 2021. The questions are listed by topic.

Student Engagement

Q1. How do we engage or motivate students who have been mostly absent this year?

- A. Reach out to the student’s family and perform a home visit (in a manner that is safe to do so, in alignment with CDC protocol and guidance) to assess any challenges or barriers the student or the student’s family may be facing. This may include developing an attendance plan and interventions.
- B. Assign one or two caring staff members to make personal connection with the student. Develop a relationship, assess what the student’s needs, make a plan to address those needs, follow-up and check-in with the student, to measure progress, moving forward.

Q2. Are there any data available on how districts are handling home visits?

- A. TEA’s HM&AR Division is not aware of any data on how districts are handling home visits. However, The [Engaging Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Guide](#) is a great resource to assist with home visits. Additionally, there is information in the guide concerning data collection and utilizing crisis code data to monitor, follow-up and track student progress.

Q3. How do we provide support to students that will not log on, will not turn in paper packets, and will not come back to campus? We have provided everything and anything for them to succeed but the students will still not engage.

- A. TEA encourages the LEA to coordinate with their student support teams, especially the dropout recovery specialist, to provide supports for students who are not logging on or returning paper packet course work. Our [Engaging Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Guide](#) is a great resource to assist supporting students who are participating in synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Q4. How do you define “disengaged” when pulling reports after the break?

- A. A student would be considered disengaged under the 2019-2020 Crisis Codes if the student was responding to requests from administrators and teachers, yet the student was not completing assignments. For secondary students enrolled in multiple classes, not completing assignments in any core content areas would count as not engaged. Students should be classified as not engaged regardless of the underlying reason for not being engaged.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Q5. What training for counselors was mentioned in the presentation?

- A. [Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools](#)
- B. [Support for Students Exposed to Trauma](#)

Q6. Where can teachers get trauma informed training?

- A. [Project Restore](#) – free, online, trauma-informed training series from TEA.
- B. [TEA Best Practice List](#)

Pregnancy Related Services

Q7. Where can I find more information about Pregnancy Related Services (PRS) and Compensatory Home Instruction (CEHI)?

- A. Please see the [Pregnancy Related Services COVID-19 FAQ](#) (updated January 2021) for information on providing services and receiving funding for PRS students who are receiving instruction via remote synchronous or remote asynchronous methods.

Q8. Do you have any attendance strategies on how to encourage pregnant students to attend class?

- A. Continue reaching out to the student and checking in. See what the student needs and work to meet those needs. Let the student know you care about them and are available regardless of their class attendance. Offer to provide them extra support, which can be in the form of virtual mental health guidance or the coordination of support from community service organizations. See the [Pregnancy Related Services COVID-19 FAQ](#) for pandemic-related information. TEA has a list of services that LEAs can utilize on our [Pregnancy and Parenting Education Resources webpage](#).
- B. See the section on [Student Engagement](#) in this Q&A for more information on keeping students engaged during virtual instruction.

Other

Q9. Are there resources for families of students who are served by these programs?

- A. The [Highly Mobile and At-Risk website](#) houses many resources for students' families and schools. Each program page has a list of resources for its respective student group.
- B. Parents of students experiencing homelessness can also visit the [TEHCY website](#).

Q10. How do educational service providers connect with your department to offer intervention based educational services to highly mobile and at-risk students enrolled in Texas LEAs?

- A.** You can contact the program emails below:
- Foster Care & Student Success - FosterCareLiaison@tea.texas.gov
 - Human Trafficking Prevention - PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.gov
 - Mental and Behavioral Health - Julie.Wayman@tea.texas.gov
 - Pregnancy Related Services - PregnancyRelatedServices@tea.texas.gov
 - Military Connected Students - MilitaryConnectedStudents@tea.texas.gov
 - Homeless Children and Youth - HomelessEducation@tea.texas.gov
- B.** Attend the upcoming HM&AR webinars (See Question 12).
- C.** Sign up for the [HM&AR newsletters](#) (See Question 13).

Q11. How do I receive credit for this webinar? Will we get a certificate?

- A.** The HM&AR Division does not provide certificates for the division webinars. The purpose of the webinars is to update and inform education stakeholders of new resources and information. Past presentations are located on TEA's Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs [website](#). TEA is grateful for your participation and commitment to serving highly mobile and at-risk students. [Sign up for the HM&AR newsletter](#) to stay informed of Division updates!

Q12. When are the next webinars?

- A.** The next HM&AR division webinar is scheduled for:
- Thursday April 1st, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm CST
 - [Register Here](#)

Q13. How can I receive updates on HM&AR Programs?

- A.** [Sign up for all of the HM&AR newsletters!](#) Here is the recommended list:
- Foster Care and Student Success
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
 - At-Risk and Highly Mobile Student Programs Division
 - Military Connected Students
 - Mental and Behavioral Health