

# Texas Home Learning April 14, 2020

(512) 463-9000

disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

tea.texas.gov/coronavirus

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### **District Questions**

#### <u>General</u>

1. **I'm a district administrator: What if I am doing something different within my district?** This tool is completely optional for districts to use. TEA recognizes many districts may have already established a home learning model for their schools and families, so resources on this site are available to help districts as they see fit.

#### 2. How expensive will it be to use the Texas Home Learning model?

All resources on the Texas Home Learning site are free to access, and all printed materials will be freely available to download. The printable materials will come in grade level packets which are very large documents, so the only potential expense would be to print and/or ship materials to families if a district chooses to provide that service. Additional information on this topic can be found in the print and distribution section of FAQs and on the April 15 webinar.

3. How can I access the PowerPoint and webinar recording about the Texas Home Learning model? The <u>PowerPoint</u> and <u>recording</u> for the April 8 Texas Home Learning webinar can be found on the Instructional Continuity Framework <u>homepage</u>.

#### 4. When will Texas Home Learning 2.0 be available for preview?

TEA is currently working to obtain information from districts as to what they need most in a Texas Home Learning 2.0 model focused on providing support for students over the summer. Once information is collection, TEA will provide an update on what districts can expect in a 2.0 version.

#### 5. Are we able to view a sample of the printed student packets?

Student grade level packets will be available for districts on the Texas Home Learning <u>website</u> by Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Districts can preview these packets to determine if they want to purchase the printing and shipping services offered by TEA. Additional information about these services can be found under printing and distribution FAQs.

## 6. What is the role the teaches in my district should play in either the online or printed version of Texas Home Learning?

Teachers play an important role in supporting learning for students in Texas Home Learning. Guidance for teachers can be found in the <u>"I'm a Teacher" section</u> of the Texas Home Learning website.

#### 7. Is Texas Home Learning a temporary or permanent tool?

Texas Home Learning 1.0 is a temporary tool intended to support students in finishing out school with daily and weekly schedules available online and in print format. However, TEA plans to develop a Texas Home Learning 2.0 model to provide students with support to prepare them for next academic school year, which could be used for any at home learning support districts wish to provide in the future.

#### **Instructional Materials and Courses**

#### 8. Which high school courses will be offered?

Texas Home Learning includes the following high school courses:

- English I, II, III, IV
- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, PreCal
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- World Geography, World History, United States History, Government and Economics

#### 9. Which TEKS are covered within each Texas Home Learning packets?

The Texas Home Learning daily activities focus on providing support to help students review and learn foundational grade level skills aligned to the TEKS. However, the resource is not intended to be a continuation of any particular district's annual scope and sequence. Also, references to specific TEKS will NOT be listed on the site given the resources are designed to be student and parent friendly to support at home learning. Districts are encouraged to review the Home Learning activities to determine if the resource makes sense to use in their local context. Districts may also choose to adapt any aspect of the resources to better align with local needs.

# 10. Is the summer bridge learning plan different from the Texas Home Learning Plan 1.0? The purpose of Texas Home Learning 1.0 (the current website) is to support students in finishing out school with daily and weekly schedules available online and in print format. However, TEA plans to develop a Texas Home Learning 2.0 model to provide students with support to prepare them for next academic school year. TEA intends to collect information from districts to help design and improve the 2.0 model. However, one goal in the 2.0 version is to help students access high quality text sets and novels at discounted state rates to accompany home learning plans.

11. Does Texas Home Learning include Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses? At this time, Texas Home Learning does not include CTE courses. TEA has provided resources for CTE in in section 2.1 of the Instructional Continuity Framework.

#### **Progress Monitoring**

## 12. How will student progress and mastery be monitored and communicated in both the online and printed versions of the packets?

All grading and progress monitoring policies should be determined by the district, and no state level progress monitoring requirements are included as a part of the Texas Home Learning model. Additionally, TEA <u>does not</u> require student packets be returned to teachers for the purposes of grading or any state-level requirement.

However, TEA seeks to provide guidance to teachers on how they can monitor the progress of students for the purpose of enhancing learning and support. A set of progress monitoring considerations can be found in the Teacher Guidance section of this website.

#### 13. How can districts evaluate student mastery for grading purposes?

All grading policies should be determined by the district, and no state level grading requirements are included as a part of the Texas Home Learning model. It is also recommended that teachers follow the grading guidance provided by their district. For additional information, review <u>this guidance</u> about grading and graduation during school closures on TEA's COVID website.



#### **Printing and Distribution**

#### 14. Are packets able to be modified for specific lessons, days, or weeks?

TEA will create grade level packets that include a complete eight-week Texas Home Learning plan with all supporting materials. The PDF packets available for print will be posted on the website by April 14<sup>th</sup>, and all TEA created schedules and guiding documents included in the packet will be provided in an editable format by April 16<sup>th</sup> so districts can adapt specific lessons, days or weeks.

TEA will also offer district statewide printing and distribution services to districts. Interested districts can submit mailing addresses to a specified vendor who will then print and ship packets directly to families. However, districts will NOT be able to make edits to the grade level packets if they choose to use this service.

#### 15. Can parents request packets and printing directly?

TEA will post downloadable, printable packets on the website for parents to access, and parents can choose to print these packets directly in their household. TEA does not offer a printing service directly to parents.

#### 16. Can districts print on their own to save printing costs?

Yes, districts can choose to print materials on their own. All printable packets will be included on the website. Additionally, TEA will provide a list of vendors with available print and distribution services that local districts may choose to partner with for services.

#### 17. Can districts submit multiple orders over time?

Yes districts can submit multiple orders to request statewide printing and shipping services. Currently, printing can be requested through the month of April. TEA may extend this date if districts are expressing a continued need for the Texas Home Learning 1.0 grade level packets.

#### 18. What is the cost per printed student learning packet?

Additional information about the cost of statewide printing and distribution will be provided in a webinar on Wednesday, April 15 and posted to the TEA website found on the Instructional Continuity Framework <u>homepage</u>.

#### 19. Can districts order packets through EMAT?

Districts cannot order materials through EMAT at this time. For information on how to order materials, see the COVID Instructional Continuity <u>homepage</u> in the Texas Home Learning section. TEA will pay the statewide shipping and distribution vendor directly so shipping can be expedited during time of emergency. TEA will provide districts with future guidance on how to reconcile the purchase. Districts should budget using the pricing information provided in the webinar on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Districts will <u>likely</u> be able to request reimbursement for printing and distribution during the time period of school closures. Additional information will be provided as it is available.

#### 20. Can the Instructional Continuity grant, if received, cover printing costs?

See previous answer for all information currently available about how districts pay for printing and distribution services.

#### 21. How is postage funded?

The total student cost per packet will include both printing and shipping and shipping costs

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#### **Special Populations**

22. How will Texas Home Learning meet the needs of students receiving special education services? Texas Home Learning resources will be supported with differentiated strategies and techniques to meet various needs of students with disabilities. Additionally, the Texas Home Learning website will be connected to related service providers that will serve the uniquely specialized needs of students with disabilities.

### 23. Can different grade level packets be ordered for the various subjects? (ex. SPED student is 3rd grade level Reading/Writing and 5th grade Math)

Districts will be able to access all grade level packets on the website. A district can indicate which grade level packet(s) it wants to be shipped to each household mailing address. This can be completed in the template districts must submit when requesting print and distribution services. Additional information can be found on the COVID Instructional Continuity <u>homepage</u> in the Texas Home Learning section.

However, for the purpose of accessing statewide printing services, a district will <u>not</u> be able to request that subjects within a grade level packet be altered. When a district places a print order, the full grade level packet would be shipped to a student. Districts may decide to purchase more than one grade level packet for students if a particular student needs access to more than one grade. Districts also may direct students to the online versions of packets if they need to access a different grade level packets for a particular subject.

24. Are there any English as a Second Language (ESL) considerations within Texas Home Learning? Texas Home Learning will have materials to support Spanish speaking students and parents that will be available in online and paper modalities. TEA will notify districts when the Spanish materials are available to access.

## **25.** Are any speech therapy services included within Texas Home Learning? TEA has partnered with AmplioSpeech to provide a platform for students in need of speech and language therapy. This platform <a href="https://www.ampliospeech.com/tea">https://www.ampliospeech.com/tea</a> can be accessed through the Texas Home Learning website.

**26.** Are any occupational therapy services included within Texas Home Learning? Texas Home Learning does not include occupational therapy services.

#### 27. Is Texas Home Learning available in languages other than English?

All PreK – Grade 5 packets will be available in English and Spanish. Additionally, Grade 6 – Grade 12 packets will have optional Spanish activities included in English Language Arts and Reading.

#### 28. Could this be used for summer school requirement for English Leaners?

Yes. Texas At Home Learning may be used for the PreK/K summer school requirements for English Learners. We anticipate sharing more guidance regarding summer school with version 2.0.

#### **Teacher Questions**

#### General

**29.** I'm a teacher: What if my district or school is using a different home learning plan? Teachers should follow the guidance and recommendations provided from their district and/or school.

### Parent Questions

#### <u>General</u>

#### 30. How expensive will it be use the Texas Home Learning model?

The digital programs are free to access, and all printed materials will be freely available to download. The printable materials will come in grade level packets which are very large documents, so the only potential expense would be to print materials which is optional. Families are encouraged to contact their school or district if printing is needed.

#### 31. I'm a parent: How much support am I going to need to provide?

The Texas Home Learning model is intended to require low support. For students in upper grades, they should be able to independently follow the daily schedules. The daily schedules include suggested, optional daily check-in guidance for parents to use as they see fit.

For students in lower grades, parents will need to support the initial set-up for access to digital programs or help students obtain access to print packets (either from their district or by printing at home). Parents will also need to help establish a daily schedule for students and may have to help students read word problems and provide guidance when stuck. However, once children get into a routine, learning should start to progress more independently over time.

