

### Summary Debrief of TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call – September 2, 2021

#### Announcements:

- **Senate Bill 15 (2<sup>nd</sup> Called Special Session)**
  - While Senate Bill 15 has not been signed by the Governor, we know many of you have questions. During the call yesterday we provided a high-level overview, but we plan to fully cover the bill on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Questions regarding the implementation of SB 15 should be submitted in writing to [remote.learning@tea.texas.gov](mailto:remote.learning@tea.texas.gov). Answers will also be added on a rolling basis to the FAQ document
- **Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Supports (TCLAS) Update**
  - The TCLAS Application closed in late August, and we had about 730 school systems apply across Texas.
  - For those LEAs that are awarded a TCLAS grant, you can expect to receive an award notification email on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>
- **COVID-19 Tests:**
  - Beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the end of SY 21-22, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and TEA will be supporting school-based COVID-19 testing activities through the work of vendors funded by an \$800 million federal grant. More info will be provided on September 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the vendors and services that will be available, but:
    - Schools will register with TEA to participate in the program.
    - Schools will be provided a list of COVID-19 testing providers and will choose the provider that meets their needs. This will go beyond just rapid testing and include other types of tests.
    - Schools will be provided COVID-19 tests from their selected provider using an allocation amount determined by DSHS and TEA.
    - Providers will bill DSHS directly, so school systems are not required to enter into contracts with COVID-19 testing providers.
    - Beyond the availability of tests, a grant program will also be available to provide funds for LEAs to contract for additional services or products in testing, ventilation, and vaccination access.

#### Posted this week on [tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus):

- **House Bill 4545 Resources**
  - **UPDATED:** [House Bill 4545 FAQ](#) (PDF)
    - Questions regarding the implementation of HB 4545 should be submitted in writing to [accelerated.instruction@tea.texas.gov](mailto:accelerated.instruction@tea.texas.gov). Answers will also be added on a rolling basis to the FAQ document.

- **UPDATED:** [Public Health Guidance](#)
- **UPDATED:** [SY 21-22 Waivers FAQ](#)
  - LEAs have reported to TEA that attendance rate declines continue to occur due to COVID. As a result, the agency is exploring options to ensure school systems will not experience significant financial difficulties. Additionally, LEAs had varying daily rates of attendance during the 2020-2021 school year due to the impact of virtual learning options. Once TEA receives this local information in a PEIMS upload this fall, the agency will be equipped to analyze, understand, and determine potential changes to the rules around waivers, particularly low attendance waivers. Please expect more on this later in the semester.
- **NEW:** [TAA: COVID-19 Testing Availability Reminder](#)

**Reminders:**

- Upcoming Superintendent Call: Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.