

Administrator Zoom

FAQ's

April 27, 2020

Please see the following link - https://www.esc12.net/page/COVID19_Communications - for access to the recorded webinar as well as a PDF copy of the presentation. There are many resources for administrators, counselors, teachers and other personnel within the ESC Region 12 COVID-19 Resource page - https://www.esc12.net/page/COVID19_home.

Q: What are some ways to maintain culture and communication with staff and students during COVID-19?

A: Check in with teachers on a regular basis via phone, video conference, or video staff/PLC meetings. Keep track of contacts in order to ensure regular contact is made.

Some campuses are requiring staff to turn in student contact logs on a regular basis in order to ensure that there continues to be a connection with students. Voice calls are preferred in order to ensure that the contact is made, received, and information is understood.

Staff members on some campuses have also created online hours for students and parents to contact them. They have used nontraditional times, such as evening, as sleep hours have adjusted during our current situation.

Several activities have been suggested for students such as honk and wave parades, teacher videos for the students, read alouds, virtual spirit weeks, goodie bags, drive through end of year awards, fun and/or silly videos and challenges. Ensure that any activities are heavily advertised and posted via social media and other communication methods (i.e. Remind, etc.)

Q: Without the STAAR Assessments, what should we review for RtI?

A: Districts and campuses should use any and all of the following to assist with RtI – interim assessments, Beginning of Year and Middle of Year tracking assessments, prior year STAAR assessments, grades, common formative and summative assessments, attendance, discipline, etc.

Q: Without the STAAR Assessments, what should we use to help establish our Campus Improvement Plans for 2020-2021?

A: See above. In addition, the use of campus climate surveys, staff turnover data, walkthrough/evaluation data, and demographic shifts are all useful in building the Campus Improvement Plan.

Q: Due to working remote, what are some ways we can ensure we adequately staff and schedule our buildings for 2020-2021?

A: Using video conferencing with pre-made questions for the interview process will help you bring in all of the staff that you want to have on an interview committee. Further, having a pre-meeting to establish the protocols for the interview will ensure that the interview is efficient and follows policy. Video conferencing also allows the committed to observe a teacher do a practice teach remotely.

In establishing a master schedule for the 2020-2021 school year, all students that have not yet selected courses for the 2020-2021 school year should be contacted and scheduled. This can be done several different ways, such as via phone, Google Forms, specific software packages, etc. If you are having difficulty contacting high school students specifically, you can use their already created 4 year plans to build a schedule. Work with your district on obtaining remote software access for the person who inputs your master schedule if they do not have it.

Q: We are anticipating large learning gaps from the shutdown of in person school this year. What can we do to help close those gaps in 2020-2021?

A: There are several different options for assisting with student learning gaps going into the fall. Structured intervention times with high quality data in order to group students can be built into your regular schedule. You may also work with your district on compacting the curriculum based upon the initial data you have. Finally, think about nontraditional ways of structured tutoring after school and on weekends utilizing virtual learning. Staff and students have ramped up rather quickly on all of the online learning platforms and thus the transition may be much easier.

TEKS Resource System is creating a gap plan for each grade/content and recommendations for teaching and spiraling missed content that will be an additional document – the Year at a Glance will remain the same. Other companies may also be providing support – contact your curriculum resource provider to see.

Q: Communication has been difficult with non-English speaking students and parents in the virtual environment. Are there any resources available?

A: There are different programs available to translate for you such as Google Translate. An app was shared during the Zoom called Talking Points that works much like Remind. You can use the following link to access the app - <https://talkingpts.org/>.

Q: Students are still having difficulty with no internet service, or spotty internet service.

A: Most of the telecom companies are offering free internet for students at this time. Ensure that they know that they can access this service most places as they can use a WiFi hotspot from the company. Campus leaders may also work with their districts to see if there is a way to distribute hotspots to students, or place buses in the neighborhood areas with WiFi hotspots.

Additional Resources

504 Guidance for COVID-19

- There is federal guidance on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
 - <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/rr/policyguidance/Supple%20Fact%20Sheet%203.21.20%20FINAL.pdf>
 - <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-coronavirus-fact-sheet.pdf>
 - <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

Special Education Guidance for COVID-19

- <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/special-education-and-special-populations>

CTE Links

- Programs of Study - One pager that notes what endorsements are earned when a program of study is completed
 - <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/approved-cte-programs-of-study>

Certification Links

If you are a District of Innovation, you may have leeway on certification requirements for certain courses. Please work with the Certification Officer in your district.

- [TAC 231 Chart \(Teacher Assignment Chart\)](#)
- [CTE Certification Quick Look Chart](#)
- [Innovative Course Webpage \(within descriptions the course notes what is required to teach it\)](#)

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