

School systems will continue to receive funding if they are closed because of COVID-19 related concerns as long as the school system commits to supporting students instructionally while at home.

For information on ADA, attendance, instructional minutes and enrollment, please see the **Enrollment and Attendance FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Waivers, Finance, and Grants](#).

See also the **Federal Funding and Grants FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Waivers, Finance, and Grants](#).

For information on CARES ACT and reimbursement questions, please see the **CARES ACT Funding and Documentation FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Waivers, Finance, and Grants](#).

General State Funding FAQ: Section Topics

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- [Non ADA-Based Funding Allotments](#)

General Funding Guidance

1. **How will the agency calculate my Foundation School Program ADA funding for the 2019-20 school year given we won't have daily attendance information for a large number of school days this year? Updated May 28, 2020**

TEA will take the average daily attendance (ADA) as calculated through the end of the fourth six weeks, and then adjust the resulting ADA to account for historical differences in rates of attendance from the first four six-week periods and the last two six-week periods. Once ADA is adjusted for historical rates of attendance, TEA will then reduce ADA in an amount necessary to ensure each LEA receives total state and CARES funding equal to the amount that would have been available through the FSP plus an amount to cover equitable services for private schools. An example of the calculation:

- Step 1.** Determine historical ratio from 2018-2019 school year for Anywhere ISD:
 - a. The district's average Refined ADA for the 1st – 4th six weeks was 200.
 - b. The district's final PEIMS Refined ADA was 195.
 - c. TEA will divide the final PEIMS Refined ADA of 195 by the 1st-4th six weeks average Refined ADA of 200.

d. This results in a historical ratio of 0.975.

Step 2. Apply the historical ratio to the 2019-2020 school year:

- a. The district's average Refined ADA for the 1st – 4th six weeks was 205.
- b. TEA will apply the ratio of 0.975 to project the district's final PEIMS Refined ADA. (Separately, this single ratio will also be applied to all student ADA and FTEs as reported through PEIMS as part of the "ADA Hold Harmless").
- c. COVID-19 Adjusted PEIMS Refined ADA = 199.875.

Step 3. Apply the ESSER (CARES) ADA reduction to the COVID-19 Adjusted PEIMS Refined ADA:

- a. The district's ESSER (CARES) Grant = \$9,000.
- b. TEA will subtract 5% for equitable services, resulting in a net ESSER amount of (\$8,550).
- c. TEA will calculate the amount of Refined ADA that results in \$8,550 FSP change (i.e. 1 Refined ADA).
- d. ESSER (CARES) Adjusted Refined ADA for FSP M&O Funding for the Summary of Finances = 198.875.
- e. FSP I&S State Funding (EDA and IFA) will use the Adjusted PEIMS Refined ADA in Step 2 (i.e. 199.875).
- f. The ESSER reduction described in Step 3 will *only* apply to Refined ADA, it will not apply to any other student ADA or FTES counts.

[Note: This answer has been significantly updated to provide clarity around the calculation of the ADA hold harmless, and certain aspects of previous guidance is no longer applicable since LEAs never reopened.]

[Note: Tracking six-weeks for the purposes of ADA has been, and will remain, independent of grading periods.]

2. When will LEAs find out the amount of the ESSER reduction to my Refined ADA? [Posted May 28, 2020](#)

The actual ADA reduction will be calculated as part of near final settle-up in September 2020. While LEAs can attempt to model the amount of the ADA reduction using existing state funding templates, TEA will not be able to estimate the ADA reduction required until after we incorporate the adjusted PEIMS Refined ADA into the Summary of Finances in September 2020. However, TEA is also planning on updating the school finance excel template to incorporate the ESSER grant amounts later this summer.

3. How should my LEA reflect the ESSER / FSP Interplay and Fund 199/266 as part of the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget? [UPDATED July 9, 2020](#)

UPDATED
7/9/20

Even though the CARES (ESSER) Grant is for 2020-2021, and the timing of the award may not occur in 2019-2020, because this revenue can be used to offset 2019-2020 expenses, and because this is helping to fund the 2019-2020 ADA hold harmless, this revenue could be recorded

in the final budget amendment (and booked as a receivable, if necessary) in the 2019-2020 school year, not 2020-2021. Or the LEA may elect to use these funds in the 20-21 school year in which case the LEA would potentially recognize an operating loss for the 19-20 school year if the LEA's revenue is less than the LEA's expenses. LEA's should be cognizant of reporting an operating loss in the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Report because doing so may cause the LEA to lose points in Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Indicator 9. The LEA may pass the indicator if the days of cash on hand exceed 60 days of for school districts or 40 days for charter schools.

4. Do I need to send in the attestation statement immediately? If I don't, will instructional support prior to filing not count toward my minutes of instruction? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

TEA will consider attestations retroactively. TEA understands you have many operational concerns to address. Please file the attestations and waivers no later than June 18, corresponding to the end of the first submission of PEIMS Summer, and only after you have a complete picture of closures for this year. For more information, see our detailed COVID-19 guidance for Missed School Day Waivers on the TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers.

5. If my school is allowed to re-Open, but large numbers of students remain at home, will my funding be reduced? [Posted March 25, 2020](#)

No. As long as you provide support for those students to receive instruction at home, you can code those students in your student information system as Absent – COVID 19 (a choice should have been added by all SIS vendors in the state for this), subject to your commitment to provide instructional support for those students while at home. (You will file [this attestation](#) document for that purpose). When calculating ADA, these students will be considered present for the purposes of state funding. If you are not providing instructional support to these students at home, they will be coded as absent and you would not receive funding for them.

6. We originally announced closure for a short term (ex: one week) but weren't actively preparing to deliver instruction remotely. Will our funding be reduced? [Posted March 25, 2020](#)

No. For districts that were "Closed, Temporary," apply for Missed Day Waivers to cover up to one week, before you transitioned to "Closed, Preparing".

7. How will fast growth districts receive funding for their growth? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Fast Growth Allotment will continue to be funded using the final ADA figures for the 2019-2020 school year. Adjustments to final ADA are detailed in the previous question and answer regarding ADA calculations (question #1).

8. Will settle-up occur as normal at the end of the year (For all districts and open-enrollment charter schools)? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

There will still be a settle-up between LPE and DPE on the summary of finances, and the timing for settle-up for the 2019-2020 school year will occur at the normal time (September 2020).

The amount of the settle-up will vary from LEA to LEA; and will depend on the variance of PEIMS final attendance (as calculated per question #1) and LPE attendance.

9. Will FSP cash-flows be affected by low attendance, or school closures, as reported through FSP submissions for the second part of the year (for Open-enrollment charter schools only)?

Posted April 14, 2020

Charter schools' six weeks attendance submissions in the FSP System (used for legislative payment estimate (LPE) purposes only) will no longer be required through August 2020.

This is a separate data submission process from PEIMS. PEIMS submissions will still be required and is the data source of record for final FSP Funding (see question #6).

Please see the Enrollment and Attendance FAQ explains how all LEAs should report the 4th, 5th, and 6th six-weeks periods in PEIMS.

10. How do charters handle six-weeks' attendance submission and the funding associated with it?

Posted March 19, 2020

For the remainder of the 19-20 school year, charter schools will no longer need to submit six weeks attendance via the Foundation School Program (FSP) system. Charter schools will be required to report final attendance through PEIMS based on forthcoming TEA guidance. April through August FSP payments will not be impacted. State funding will continue to pay on the attendance that the March FSP payment was based on. There will be no interruption in cash flow during the school year. It's important to note that settle-up in September may impact the overall funding.

11. What actions, specifically do charters need to take? [Posted March 19, 2020](#)

Should a charter school decide to continue operations, close their facility, and/or establish remote learning opportunities (i.e. learning packets or online instruction), there are certain considerations to take into account. Please see the agency's coronavirus website under the Waivers, Finance and Grants section found [here](#) that provides important updates and guidance for charter holders.

12. How will districts take attendance for students that were participating in the Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) but are now receiving online/distance learning provided by the district while the campuses are closed? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

For information on this question, please see the **Enrollment and Attendance** document in the Waivers and Funding section of the TEA Coronavirus webpage.

13. Will there be a consideration to access the additional funding prior to September 1st if we want to come back before the beginning of school? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Texas operates on a fiscal year beginning September 1. Foundation School Program payments follow the same calendar, regardless of when a school district begins their academic year.

For more information, please see the School Calendar section in the ***Enrollment and Attendance FAQ***.

14. How does a district with a June 30th fiscal year end comply with TEC, Chapter 44, Subchapter A, tax and budget hearing and notice requirements, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? Posted April 30, 2020

A district may hold tax rate and budget meetings in conformance with [COVID-19 resources and guidelines](#) published by the Office of the Attorney General and Texas Department of Information Resources. TEA will consider meetings held in conformance with such resources and guidelines as compliant with TEC, §44.004(f).

The district must, however, follow all other requirements in TEC, §§44.004 and 44.0041, which include publishing the proposed budget in a newspaper and posting notice on the district's website.

15. Can a district use general funds to offset the losses to student activity funds due to Covid-19? Posted April 30, 2020

Yes. Under TEC 45.105(c) districts may use local funds for other purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools determined by the board of trustees...

Therefore, it will take board action to approve the transfer of general funds to the student activity funds. A school board may choose to donate general funds; in an abundance of caution, however, district school boards are advised to find in support of such donations that: 1) the donation of general funds will serve a public purpose; 2) sufficient controls will be in place to ensure that the public purpose is carried out; and 3) the district will receive a return benefit from the donation. See Op. Atty. Gen. No. GA- 0076, 2003.

16. We have been looking at our minutes and we will reach our 75,600 minutes around the XX of May. Can we close school once we reach the 75,600 minutes? Posted May 7, 2020

For questions on the 75,600 minute requirement please see the Attendance section in the [ADA, attendance, instructional minutes and enrollment](#), in the ***Enrollment and Attendance FAQ*** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants.](#)

17. Our 2019-2020 school calendar has 77,850 minutes with our final day of instruction as May 21, 2020. May we file a waiver to end our school year on May 15, 2020 and use the following week to stagger teachers on-campus to clean out their classrooms and complete EOY inventory? This would bring our total number of instructional minutes to 76,200 so we would still surpass the minimum number of instructional minutes required. Posted May 7, 2020

For questions on the 75,600 minute requirement please see the Attendance section in the [ADA, attendance, instructional minutes and enrollment](#), in the **Enrollment and Attendance FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants..](#)

18. Will TEA be setting our tax rates? When will this info come out? Which values are we supposed to use for calculations? If we adopt our budget in July can we adopt tax rate in August after certified values come out in July? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

School boards set tax rates, not TEA.

TEA will be calculating and making available maximum Tier One tax rates for school districts.

TEA will be approving maximum tax rate calculations for each district in late July through the first week in August 2020.

Districts should use your July 25th local certified property values as always in your budget process.

Districts with a fiscal year beginning July 1 must adopt their budgets by June 30, 2020. Districts with a fiscal year beginning September 1 must adopt their budgets by August 31, 2020. Both sets of districts can adopt their tax rates in August 2020.

See adopted rule [TAC 61.1000 Maximum Compressed Tax Rate Calculation and Data Collection](#) (effective April 15, 2020) for more information.

Note: Per this rule, a data collection for the July 25th local certified values will be created and used for this purpose.

19. Will tax compression for the 2020-2021 school year (2020 tax year) be impacted by Covid-19? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

Tax compression calculations will not be impacted by COVID-19, and the timing and process will continue as planned per statute and administrative code.

20. Is there any validity that the state may freeze property values next year? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

Neither the Commissioner of Education nor the Comptroller have the authority to freeze property values. It is our understanding that the comptroller's office is proceeding with plans to conduct the 2020 property value study according to statutory timelines requirements.

21. My district's May 2020 Bond elections have been postponed. If this delay impacts my district's ability to generate sufficient debt service payments in the final year of the 2020-2021 biennium, will the agency consider alternative methods in considering those bonds eligible for EDA state aid assistance for the 2022-2023 biennium? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

The agency will not consider alternative methods to consider bonds that would otherwise be ineligible for Existing Debt Allotment (EDA) assistance in the coming biennium. In order to qualify for the EDA, districts must show qualifying debt service payment on eligible bonds during the final year (FY2021) of the preceding biennium for the 2022-2023 biennium.

22. Will there be proration in the Foundation School Program for either the 2019-2020 or the 2020-2021 school year? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

FSP funding for the 2019-2020 school year will not be prorated. However, the formula for the calculation of ADA hold harmless communicated in previous guidance will be adjusted to ensure LEAs receive the full amount of ADA-driven expected funding (i.e., funding that excludes the transportation allotment) for the school year given all funding sources.

The General Appropriations Act provided sufficient funds for the FSP for 2020-21. However, significant economic uncertainty remains, and the size of the decline in state revenues relative to what was estimated in the Appropriations Act because of COVID-19 is currently unknown. Given the supplementation of funds from ESSER and reductions in actual vs expected spending, TEA does not currently project a need for proration, however the facts could change over the coming year.

23. Will receiving ESSER (CARES Act) formula funds result in a loss of Foundation School Program (FSP) State Aid? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

For the answer to this question, please see the **CARES ACT Funding and Documentation FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants.](#)

24. How will the agency calculate and fund my Foundation School Program ADA funding for the 2019-2020 school year given we won't have daily attendance information for a large number of school days this year? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

For the answer to this question, please see the **CARES ACT Funding and Documentation FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants.](#)

25. State Documentation: How would we report CARES ACT funds in the annual financial report? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

For the answer to this question, please see the **CARES ACT Funding and Documentation FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants.](#)

26. State Documentation: What fund number will my district use to account for this revenue (CARES ACT funds)? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

For the answer to this question, please see the **CARES ACT Funding and Documentation FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under District Waivers, Finance and Grants.](#)

Special Allotment Revenue and Spending Requirements

1. What actions do districts need to take to ensure 55% spending requirement for special programs? [Posted March 25, 2020](#)

Districts should make every good faith effort to ensure additional weighted special program funds continue to be spent in support of student needs. TEA will wait until the final expenditure data is reported to the agency before making a determination about waiving the 55% expenditure requirements. The agency will continue to support flexibility where possible, but districts should remember that salaries make up the vast majority of district operating budgets and since funding will be uninterrupted it is the agency's expectation that those salaries for special program personnel will continue to be paid and coded to the proper program intent code.

2. Is there any guidance pertaining specifically to SCE expenditure limitations? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Districts should continue to code expenditures the way they were coded prior to COVID-19. Districts will continue to meet the needs of students, it's just in a different setting. So at home learning program costs can be paid for using SCE funds, but the 55% spending requirement remains.

Under current law, SCE may be spent on students that meet a variety of at-risk categories or who qualified for the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, school boards can adopt a local criteria for classifying students as eligible for SCE. No more than 10% of students may be considered SCE via the local criteria. This remains the same during COVID-19 as it was prior.

Please document new expenditures for COVID-19 as described in the **Cost Reimbursement FAQ** found in the Waivers & Funding section of the Coronavirus web page.

3. Is there any guidance pertaining to Early Education Allotment funds with regard to COVID-19 expenditures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Districts may use their Early Education Allotment funds to pay for learning from home programs for students who are in pre-k through 3rd grade.

Please document new expenditures for COVID-19 as described in the **Cost Reimbursement FAQ** found in the Waivers & Funding section of the Coronavirus web page.

4. What guidance is there for funding for CTE classes? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

FSP Funding for special programs, including CTE will continue to flow and will be calculated using the same methodology for calculating ADA, that was laid out in the previous answer to calculating ADA.

5. Is the state planning on freezing Special Allotment amounts? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The state is not planning on freezing special program allotments on the summary of finances. The allotments will still be based on final student attendance, and the methodology for adjusting final student ADA and student FTE calculations are detailed in the previous question and answer regarding ADA calculations.

6. Will my district's requirement to grant compensation increases (i.e. "The 30 percent" requirement) be affected by Covid-19-related school closures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

No. The agency's documentation regarding our understanding of HB 3 may be found on our HB 3 website. The Commissioner submitted a request to exercise authority under the unintentional consequence's statute to make clear that the transition allotment was not included in the calculation of the 30%. While the other issues included in that letter received a response, that issue has not received a response.

7. Given the circumstances and potential for students to fall behind, can we ask for exception to spend state comp ed dollars on all students at home? [Posted April 30, 2020](#)

Districts should continue to make every effort to serve students that are part of the program, which is defined as students who are considered at-risk, defined in the districts local criteria, and are economically disadvantaged. SCE funds are supplementary and cannot replace the regular program funds. Certainly, meeting students' needs is top priority therefore the district has the option of using 45% of the funds to spend on other students, which means the district would not code expenses to PIC 24 or PIC 30 for these expenses.

8. If a district has an allowable expense for a special allotment (for example, early education allotment expense) AND it is also a COVID-19 expense, will the district receive credit for this expense under the spending requirement for the special allotment percentage they need to spend even if they claim FEMA or stimulus reimbursement for this? [Posted April 30, 2020](#)

Yes, the district will receive credit for the use of the special allotment funds.

Non ADA-Based Funding Allotments

1. How will my College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) Outcomes Bonus be affected by Covid-19-related school closures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The bonus thresholds are based off of 2016-2017 annual graduates and will be allotted to districts based off of annual graduates for 2017-2018. Annual graduates for 2019-2020 could be the affected by COVID-19 school closures, and 2019-2020 graduates impact CCMR for the 2022-2023, but that impact yet to be determined.

2. How will my Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) be affected by Covid-19-related school closures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

TIA funding will not be affected for 2019-2020 applications, approvals, and designations, and funds will flow as they would normally for designated teachers. However, at a local level, districts that are using 2019-2020 as their data-capture year may be impacted in their ability to measure teacher observation and/or student growth given that the STAAR / EOC assessments have been cancelled, and/or given that some districts may not have completed their teacher observations prior to school closures.

3. How will my Career/Industry Certification Examination reimbursements be affected by Covid-19-related school closures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Reimbursement will still be provided for students who pass their certification exams, as provided for under HB 3. Whether they sit for the exam could be impacted by COVID-19, and will depend on the type of testing associated with industry-based certifications. Some certifications are online testing and others are in person. The district will need to refer to the certifying entity (vendor) associated with the certifications they offer. TEA has the following industry-based certification resources:

1. [One-page resources for each industry-based certification on TEA's A-F accountability list](#)
 - a. Testing information
 - b. Study materials and resources
2. [Industry-based certification vendor crosswalk](#)
3. [House Bill 3 Industry-Based Certification Examination Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Note: TEA provided estimated funding for these reimbursements for the 2019-20 school year based on anticipated rates of participation, as described in the HB 3 in 30 video series. This funding will be matched to actual participation and passing during settle-up. If rates of participation end up materially lower, this will negatively impact LEAs during settle-up.

4. How will my College Preparation Examination reimbursements be affected by Covid-19-related school closures? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Test administration for college preparation exams has been impacted by COVID-19. For the latest information, see the **ACT, SAT, TSIA, AP/IB FAQ** under the "Assessment tab" on TEA's Coronavirus Webpage.

TEA is expanding the college preparation assessment reimbursements to include summer testing administrations. Eligible students will now be seniors who take either the SAT, ACT, or TSIA from TEA also recognizes that online test administrations can come at a higher cost. Due to this, TEA will reimburse districts for both the TSIA test fee and the any proctor fees for the online version of the TSIA for those students impacted and will also include summer testing administrations for reimbursement.

Note: TEA provided estimated funding for these reimbursements for the 2019-20 school year based on anticipated rates of participation, as described in the HB 3 in 30 video series. This funding will be matched to actual participation during settle-up. If rates of participation end up materially lower, this will negatively impact LEAs during settle-up.

5. Should LEAs continue using State Compensatory Education funds to provide CEHI instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, even if remote instruction is being provided for all students from the “teacher of record”? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

For answers to this question, and other Pregnancy-Related Services questions, please see the **Pregnancy Related Service Guidance** document located on the TEA Coronavirus website under the SPED and Special Populations section.

6. Can we utilize buses and bus drivers for child nutrition service delivery and utilize transportation funding for reimbursement? [Posted April 30, 2020](#)

As noted in previous responses, it is important to document all costs so if reimbursement becomes available through federal funds or state supplemental appropriations, the district has all the necessary information.

Miles driven for food service delivery, wifi hotspots, or other uses due to Covid-19, should not be reported for reimbursement under the state transportation allotment that is part of the FSP. But they would be costs associated with NSLP / SFSP / SSO reimbursements. See also the **TDA FAQ**.

Costs over and above those reimbursements could potentially be reimbursed from other federal sources.

7. How will my 2019-2020 Transportation Allotment be affected by COVID-19-related school closures? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

The 2019-2020 Transportation Allotment will reflect actual days the district was physically open and delivering instruction to students. Data submitted via the FSP System related to generating the transportation allotment should only reflect the actual days of operation and mileage driven up until the closure. (i.e. If the district closed beginning March 16, 2020, then the total days reported in the transportation module would be from the beginning of the school year through March 13, 2020). Mileage driven for COVID-19 related services should be included in the Transportation Operations Report, but not the Transportation Route Services Report.

While this would result in a reduction in the transportation allotment, expenditure data shows that this reduction can be absorbed through the reduction of non-salary expenditures associated with the bus route stoppage coinciding with school closures, as the transportation allotment covered 25% of total program costs, and salary-related expenditures in the transportation program make up more than 60% of transportation expenditures.

8. How will my 2020-2021 Old Law Transportation Allotment in the Formula Transition Grant calculation be affected by COVID-19-related school closures? [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

Because the submission of fewer miles on the Route Services report due to school closures during the 2019-2020 school year would normally increase linear density rates for the 2020-2021 school year (old law transportation formulas), TEA will be adjusting the formula to account for the

reduction in miles and days buses were driven in order to result in more accurate linear density rates. The division of state funding will be putting out guidance this summer once transportation data has been submitted and the adjustment has been determined.

- 9. Could we choose to run the extended day program before school starts on August 17th? For example, start July 13th thru August 7th, then take 5 days of Inservice and start school on August 17th (180 instructional days)?** [Posted May 21, 2020](#)

Additional Days School Year (ADSY) does not officially start until September 1, 2020 per TEC 48.0051. However, if participating campuses start their regular academic calendar in the summer of 2020 and place ADSY program days after September 1, they can take advantage of summer instruction and ADSY funding next school year. There are a number of considerations including compulsory attendance and start date flexibility with District of Innovation plans that should factor in to district planning.