

# Coalition news & updates

---

March 16th, 2020

**Hello All,**

Thank you all for your incredible leadership during this difficult time. Many of our community's families are looking to you for answers, support, and resources, and you have answered the call with your detailed and measured responses. As it has been said recently, in the end it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we under-reacted or did too little. You all are living that every day; thank you for your continued leadership.

Please see a few updates, as well as COVID-19 information, below.

Stay Well,  
Julia

## COVID-19

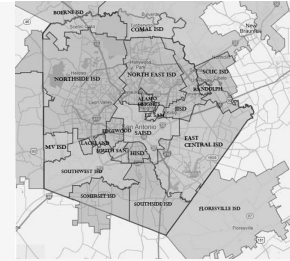
As you have likely seen, [Governor Abbot waived all STAAR tests](#) for the 2019-2020 school year. Commissioner Morath on his update call on March 16th shared that all promotion decisions were up to local districts and said he would be releasing written guidance soon. Morath also reassured us that [funding would continue](#) as long as districts were committed to providing at-home instruction. On a [previous call](#) he stated TEA is keeping guidance as loose as possible to ensure all districts can meet the need.

Texas, Bexar County, and San Antonio officials gave an update today via [press conference](#). All decisions related to district closure still remain with districts unless local (incorporated) or county (unincorporated) step in to say otherwise. If you are not in touch directly with Metro Health, Mayor's office, or Bexar County, please let me know so I can get you or your team directly in touch with the city or county.

US Department of Education [released information](#) on accountability, attendance, and FERPA.

Federal government expects to have a COVID-19 relief bill passed this week, unless it is slowed by the senate. [Summary here](#). As TEA has [encouraged](#), keep detailed record of any additional costs because emergency funding may be coming soon and the more documentation the better.

Many online services are being extended for free during this time, included [free WiFi](#) for families with students from spectrum. Families can call 1-844-488-8395.



## What we're reading

[NY Times: Coronavirus Resources: Teaching, Learning and Thinking Critically](#)

[Forbes: Zoom CEO gives K12 schools free access](#)

[NY Daily News: Internet providers who are offering free services](#)

[Roll Call: Census Delays Outreach due to COVID](#)

[Songs to sing while washing hands](#)

---

## What we're researching:

As commute time has been cut down quite a bit, there is significantly more time to dedicate to on-going research projects (please add more as you see fit). Here's what's on the list (so far) this month:

1. **HB 3 sustainability** - Market behaviors has made this a more urgent topic for the upcoming session.
  2. **Accountability** - Especially in the wake of year-long waivers, what are accountability adjustment options in the future.
  3. **Consolidation** - what are the legal considerations the state would have to face should they try to start the consolidation conversation next session.
-

## (Virtual/Phone) Visits this month

Many of you have your first research visits scheduled for this month. My schedule has not changed - please let me know if you would rather do these at a later date, but I am happy to make them a call or set up a Zoom virtual call for us to talk.

**Put me to work!** Consider me to be a part of the team as much as possible. If there is something I can research, a person or people I can call/text/appropriately bother on your behalf, let me know. I am here for you all.

**Our Members:**  
AHISD, ECISD, JISD, MVISD,  
NEISD, NISD, SAISD, SISD,  
SWISD

---

**I'm here to help:**

Cell - 210-279-2787

## First Convening - June 17th



### First Convening Date Set

We have set our first convening date for June 17th to correspond to the Summer Leadership Institute.

City of San Antonio has sponsored a space for our group at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

The tentative plan is to have the meeting from 12-5pm (with lunch from 12pm - 1pm), and a cocktail hour with Bexar County elected official immediately following.

Please send [feedback](#) if this time and date does not work.

## Website and Logo Development

We have found a partner to develop a logo and website for us at half the rate of several of the other bids we received. We will hopefully have more to share during the next update. Thank you for your continued patience as we get up and running. Since we are still intent on being powered by district membership, we are building the ship as we sail.

Bexar County Schools Community Education Coalition