



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 8716 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78759 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2020

Contact: Lety Barbosa, 210-860-1441 and Adonis Schurmann, 210-416-0911

Demand to start the school year with remote learning expands among San Antonio-area educators

Leaders from several San Antonio-area teacher unions released the following statement today:

“For the sake of our health and the health of our students and communities, we demand that our school districts provide only remote instruction for the first nine weeks of the new school year and that the state not penalize the districts with funding cuts.

“We are in the middle of a deadly COVID-19 pandemic that we fear is getting worse. It is not right to require teachers and other school employees to endanger their health and even their lives by returning to campuses when it is too dangerous to do so.

“Under current Texas Education Agency guidelines, districts will be required to offer on-campus classes or lose state funding. Teachers want to teach. But we didn’t sign up – and neither did our support staff – to put our lives at risk when that can be avoided by common-sense precautions, such as an extended period of virtual learning.

“Districts are being blackmailed by the state – the loss of funding – into reopening before it is safe for students and school employees to do so. We call on the state to fully fund all school districts, including those that choose to emphasize safety and provide only remote learning for the first nine weeks of the semester.”

The unions represented below are local affiliates of the Texas State Teachers Association. Here are TSTA’s standards for safe students, schools and communities:

<https://tsta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TSTASTandardsForSafeSchools.pdf>

Julie Gimbel, Harlandale Education Association

Adonis Schurmann, North East Education Association

Lety Barbosa, Edgewood Classroom Teachers Association

Rudy Ramirez, Southside Education Association

Talia Howard, Alamo Heights Teachers Association

Francisco Dionisio, New Braunfels-TSTA

Vanessa Luna, Del Rio-TSTA