



# TSTA NEWS

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## **TSTA: Governor must act to protect students and educators**

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina issued the following statement today:

“We are glad to hear that the state won’t overturn local health officials who have ordered school buildings to remain closed for several more weeks while the pandemic continues to rage across Texas. But Gov. Abbott and the state education commissioner need to quit passing the buck on this crucial issue that affects the health and safety of millions of school children, school employees and their communities.

“We demand that the governor issue a statewide order that all school buildings must remain closed and all instruction be provided remotely until the pandemic has clearly begun to subside and it is safe to reopen school buildings under strict safety standards. The state and school districts must work with educators to decide when that time is here. In the meantime, school districts must continue to receive full state funding.

“Under current state guidelines, if a local health official doesn’t act, school districts will still be penalized if they don’t provide on-campus instruction after the first three weeks of the fall semester, even if COVID-19 cases and deaths are still increasing. People’s lives are at stake. The governor needs to lead and do the right thing, not duck and wait for local health officials to decide for him.”

TSTA’s standards for safe students, schools and communities:

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