



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: Schools must reopen when it is safe, not to meet a state deadline

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement on TEA's new school opening guidelines:

"The state education commissioner has given school districts additional time to reopen school buildings without a financial penalty, but irrelevant deadlines are not what educators and students need. Educators, students and their parents need assurance that school buildings will not be reopened until it is safe to do so. Right now, with the pandemic still raging across Texas, we don't know when that will be.

"We demand that Gov. Abbott issue a statewide order that all school buildings 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 and health experts to decide when that time is here for each school district. Meanwhile, districts must receive full state funding.

"Instead of being forced to provide on-campus instruction when it is still not safe to do so, districts must be provided the financial assistance to supply all students with the resources they need for remote instruction at home, and the state must require districts to do so."

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

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