



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: Until educators are vaccinated, Gov. Abbott must allow districts to end in-person instruction without losing state funding

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement on Gov. Abbott's latest remarks on the COVID-19 vaccine:

The Texas State Teachers Association is disappointed that Gov. Greg Abbott has not added school employees to the COVID-19 vaccination priority list, and we continue to urge him to do so.

Meanwhile, we encourage every school employee who is 65 or older or who has underlying health conditions to take the COVID vaccine, if their physicians approve. But our public schools and students will not be safe from this pandemic until every educator who wants a vaccine can get one, and it may be some months before Texas has enough vaccine doses to cover all educators and other high-risk groups.

So, we repeat our call for the governor and the Texas Education Agency to give school districts the flexibility to close their buildings and conduct only remote instruction, without losing state funding, for the remainder of this school year if local health experts and school officials believe that is necessary to keep students, educators and communities safe.

We also urge the governor to keep all districts fully funded for the remainder of the school year regardless of attendance losses. Schools cannot afford funding cuts, especially in the middle of a health crisis.