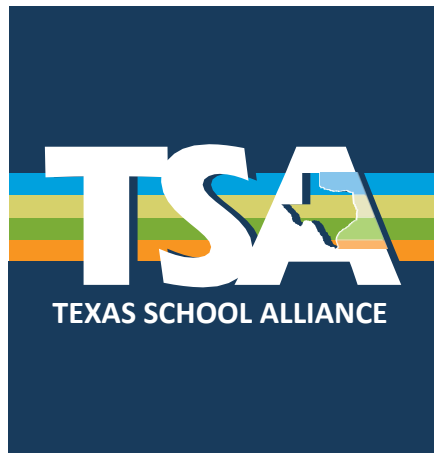




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Katy ISD	Waco ISD
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September 1, 2021

Superintendent and Strategic Staff Agenda **Holdsworth Center Campus | 10:00am – 1:00pm**

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Business Items

Dr. Roland Hernandez, President, and Dr. Curtis Culwell, Executive Director

TSA Financial Report for 2020-21 and Budget for 2021-22

Charles Woods, Alief ISD

Announce TSA Consultant Contracts for 2021-22

Dr. Roland Hernandez, President, and Dr. Curtis Culwell, Executive Director

TSA Officers and Board of Directors for 2021-22

Dr. Roland Hernandez, President

TSA Dues Structure / Meeting Dates for 2021-22

Dr. Roland Hernandez, President

Announce New TSA Member District (if applicable)

Dr. Roland Hernandez, President

Consultant Updates

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

COVID-19: Legal and Late Breaking Updates

- Legal Updates
- School Finance Updates:
 - ADA Waiver Process
 - CDC Testing \$

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Legislative Special Session Updates

- Virtual Education – SB 15
- CRT – SB 3 & HB 28
- HB 4545 & HB 233 – general discussion
- Census Data / Redistricting
- 2021 STAAR Analysis – What do the data tell us?

11:45 – 12:30 p.m.

LUNCH

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Additional Consultant Updates

- Tax & Revenue Updates
- A-F Accountability Ratings Update

1:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Upon adjournment

Optional Tour of the Holdsworth Center Campus



SAVE THE DATES: TSA Luncheon – Sept. 25 TASA/TASB Dallas

TSA Strategic Staff Meeting – Oct. 6 ZOOM

TSA Supt & Strategic Staff Meeting – Oct. 13 ZOOM



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Killeen ISD	*Board of Directors

September 1, 2021

2021-2022 TSA Officers and Board of Directors

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Northside ISD
Dr. Brian Woods

VICE PRESIDENT

Richardson ISD
Dr. Jeannie Stone

SECRETARY

Tyler ISD
Dr. Marty Crawford

TREASURER

Alief ISD
Mr. HD Chambers

PAST PRESIDENT

Corpus Christi ISD
Dr. Roland Hernandez

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Abilene ISD – <i>term expires 2022</i>	Pasadena ISD – <i>term expires 2024</i>
Alief ISD	Plano ISD – <i>term expires 2023</i>
Corpus Christi ISD	Richardson ISD
Dallas ISD	Spring ISD – <i>term expires 2024</i>
Ector County ISD – <i>term expires 2023</i>	Spring Branch ISD – <i>term expires 2023</i>
Fort Worth ISD – <i>term expires 2024</i>	Tyler ISD
Lubbock ISD – <i>term expires 2024</i>	Waco ISD – <i>term expires 2024</i>
Northside ISD	

"In light of the conflict currently being resolved in the courts between Executive Order GA-38 and certain local orders and actions, TEA is refraining from issuing updated public health guidance at this time."



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Texas state representative defends bill he introduced to prohibit mask mandates in schools

5 things to know about the lambda variant and its arrival in Dallas

An aviation psychologist explains why COVID-19 is causing havoc for passengers and crews

NEWS > EDUCATION

U.S. Education Secretary: Texas' mask mandate ban may infringe on school district authority

Secretary Miguel A. Cardona wrote to Gov. Greg Abbott and Education Commissioner Mike Morath on Friday with a stern warning.





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By [Emily Donaldson](#) and [Talia Richman](#)

4:00 PM on Aug 13, 2021



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04:51

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The U.S. education secretary is backing Texas school district leaders who are defying Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates in schools.

Secretary Miguel A. Cardona wrote Abbott and Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath Friday, saying that attempts to bar district leaders from requiring masks "may infringe upon a school district's authority to adopt policies to protect students and educators," as they develop instruction plans required under federal law.

Representatives for the governor and TEA could not immediately be reached for comment.

Abbott's action cuts against the federal law that bestowed billions in pandemic aid to school districts to help students rebound from the pandemic and reopen safely, Cardona wrote in the letter.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which **funneled \$11.2 billion to Texas schools**, requires that each school district receiving money adopt a plan for a safe return to in-person instruction.

The U.S. Department of Education stipulated that these plans must describe how schools can maintain student and staff safety and show what policies have been adopted in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has recommended universal masking in school, regardless of vaccination status.

"The Department is concerned that Texas' actions could limit each [school system]'s ability ... to adopt a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction,"



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policies aligned with CDC's guidance.

Dallas ISD was the **first district to formally flout the governor's order** and say that it would once again require masks on its campuses. Children under 12 -- essentially all students in pre-K through sixth grade -- are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. A spike in coronavirus cases, driven by the highly contagious delta variant, has coincided with the start of the new school year.

Since DISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa's announcement, dozens of other districts have followed suit. Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins later prevailed in a preliminary court fight to once again require masks in schools, businesses and county buildings.

Meanwhile, in Tarrant County, a **judge blocked Fort Worth ISD from implementing its own mask mandate.**

Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton have stood firm, vowing to take the fight to higher courts. They argue it should be up to individual Texans to choose to wear a mask.

"This isn't the first time we have dealt with activist characters. It's deja vu all over again," Paxton said in an earlier statement. "Attention-grabbing judges and mayors have defied executive orders before, when the pandemic first started, and the courts ruled on our side -- the law."

The state education agency, led by Morath, has largely stayed out of the latest fight -- at least publicly. Agency officials issued a statement Thursday saying that in light of the conflict, it would refrain from issuing updated public health guidance.

Cardona wrote that the education department recognizes that several districts in Texas have already moved to adopt policies in line with CDC guidance, in spite of



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The education secretary **hinted earlier this week** at his concerns about the way Abbott has handled the pandemic.

“I spoke to Governor Abbott and he recognized the importance of vaccinations,” Cardona said during a Wednesday webinar. “I did share my concerns about the policies that are not in alignment with the CDC and the importance of making sure that our schools are safe for our students.”

Cardona also wrote to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on Friday over the state’s prohibition on mask mandates. Florida’s Republican governor has threatened to withhold hundreds of thousands of dollars in funds from school districts that violate the governor’s order, **according to reporting by *The Miami Herald***.

Cardona said he was deeply concerned over DeSantis’ threatened financial consequences.

Stay connected to the latest in education by **signing up for our weekly newsletter**.

The DMN Education Lab deepens the coverage and conversation about urgent education issues critical to the future of North Texas.

The DMN Education Lab is a community-funded journalism initiative, with support from The Beck Group, Bobby and Lottye Lyle, Communities Foundation of Texas, The Dallas Foundation, Dallas Regional Chamber, Deedie Rose, The Meadows Foundation, Solutions Journalism Network, Southern Methodist University and Todd A. Williams Family Foundation. The Dallas Morning News retains full editorial control of the Education Lab’s journalism.





THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

August 13, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
The Capitol
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Mike Morath
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott and Commissioner Morath:

As the new school year begins in school districts across Texas, it is our shared priority that students return to in-person instruction safely. The safe return to in-person instruction requires that school districts be able to protect the health and safety of students and educators, and that families have confidence that their schools are doing everything possible to keep students healthy. **Texas's recent actions to block school districts from voluntarily adopting science-based strategies for preventing the spread of COVID-19 that are aligned with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) puts these goals at risk and may infringe upon a school district's authority to adopt policies to protect students and educators as they develop their safe return to in-person instruction plans required by Federal law.**

We are aware that Texas has issued an Executive Order prohibiting local educational agencies (LEAs), among other local government entities, from adopting requirements for the universal wearing of masks.¹ Further, guidance released on August 5, 2021, by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) states that "school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing."²

These State level actions against science-based strategies for preventing the spread of COVID-19 appear to restrict the development of local health and safety policies and are at odds with the school district planning process embodied in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) interim final requirements. As you know, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act) requires each LEA that receives Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds to adopt a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. (See section 2001(i).) The Department's interim final requirements clarify that such plan "must describe...how [the LEA] will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC..." The safety recommendations include "universal and correct wearing of masks" and "contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the [appropriate] health departments."

¹ See: https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-36_prohibition_on_mandating_face_coverings_response_to_COVID-19_disaster_IMAGE_05-18-2021.pdf.

² See: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>.

The Department is concerned that Texas's actions could limit each LEA's ability under the ARP Act to adopt a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services that the LEA determines adequately protects students and educators by following CDC guidance. **The Department recognizes that several LEAs in your State have already moved to adopt such policies in line with guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities despite the State-level prohibitions. The Department stands with these dedicated educators who are working to safely reopen schools and maintain safe in-person instruction.**

The Department also emphasizes that it is within an LEA's discretion to use ARP ESSER funds for contact tracing, implementing indoor masking policies, or other policies aligned with CDC guidance. Section 2001(e)(2)(Q) of the ARP Act explicitly gives LEAs the authority to use ARP ESSER funds (as well as ESSER funds granted through prior relief funding) for "developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff."

As mentioned in my call to Commissioner Morath on July 16 and Governor Abbott on August 6, we are eager to partner with Texas on any efforts to further our shared goals of protecting the health and safety of students and educators. In addition, the Department will continue to closely review and monitor whether Texas is meeting all of its Federal fiscal requirements. It's critical that we do everything in our power to provide a safe environment for our students and staff to thrive.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.

MEDIA STATEMENT

Harmony Public Schools to offer limited virtual learning for students statewide

The following statement is available for publication or other distribution by media outlets regarding Harmony Public Schools' virtual learning program.

At Harmony Public Schools, we are deeply committed to the safety of our students, team members, and communities as new cases of COVID-19 continue to rise throughout Texas.

On Monday, August 9, Harmony Public Schools informed families that it will be offering a Texas Education Agency-approved virtual learning program on a limited basis for students with a documented medical need. As part of the program, students can receive up to 20 days of synchronous virtual instruction per academic year if they are unable to attend class on-campus due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis; have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual; or are a member of a high-risk medical group, as documented by a licensed physician. Should a student require more than 20 days, they may apply for a waiver for an additional 20 days with his or her campus' student health office.

Harmony feels this virtual learning opportunity provides parents a valuable option to keep their child safe from the risk of COVID-19, while also on-track academically and connected to their classmates and school interests.

Harmony also announced that it will continue to inform parents if a child or team member tests positive for COVID-19 in their classroom. We also will conduct contact tracing to determine the full extent of any possible presence of COVID-19 on our campuses.

We feel these measures are important steps in helping to keep our students safe, and continuing a culture of collaboration with our Harmony families in the fight against COVID-19.

We will continue to explore all available options to keep our students, team members, and communities safe from COVID-19.

No further comment will be issued at this time.

Thank you.