



**Joint Statement from Senate Education Committee Chairman Larry Taylor  
& House Public Education Chairman Dan Huberty**

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AUSTIN, Texas: "Today, Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Mike Morath issued TEA's health and safety guidance for school districts to reopen this fall. We appreciate Governor Abbott and Commissioner Morath's leadership through these extremely challenging times and for working with the Members of the House Public Education Committee and Senate Education Committee to find solutions to get our students back to school and back on track educationally. TEA has worked tirelessly to ensure that our children are able to return to the classroom in a responsible, safe, and healthy way. Most importantly, this guidance allows each independent school district the freedom and flexibility to operate in the best way for their local communities. At the end of the day, parents have the final decision on whether or not their children return to campus. As parents ourselves, we understand how critical it is for our students to get back to some sort of normalcy and resume their education, and appreciate TEA offering this guidance. COVID-19 continues to pose new challenges for our state and it is vital that we continue to work together to find solutions that will make Texas stronger than ever."

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