# TEA Tidbits--November 12, 2020

Dear TEA members,

## TEA In-person learning and COVID safety survey

Over the past week, the 14-day positive testing average for Larimer County passed above 7.5 percent. According to Larimer County's "COVID-19 Leading Indicators For Schools," TSD is at 7 points, which is just at the threshold of a review for possible closures. Some districts in the state have decided to move to remote learning when their county goes to Safer At Home Level 3: concern, and others have suddenly discovered new metrics that show that being in school is safe. Since we are a member-driven organization, we need some feedback from you as to your current feelings regarding how safe you feel at school; the risk-reward ratio of remaining at school as cases increase; and how to advocate as we go forward regarding staying open. Thank you in advance for your honest feedback.

[Please take the survey here.](https://forms.gle/sc7A1nzER5DP8FGeA?link_id=0&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-91&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) It should take less than 5 minutes of your time.

## TEA meets with State Board Of Education member Schroeder

Andy and Greg met Thursday, 11/5, with State Board of Education chair Angelika Schroeder, along with educator leaders from all over this congressional district, ahead of their next meeting on November 12. Educators in attendance were passionate about the issues discussed, including the READ Act training requirement deadline extension. You were well represented. Mrs. Schroeder expressed interest in making this a regular meeting before each state Board meeting--if any members are interested in attending one of these, please let Andy know.

**Update:**At the state board meeting yesterday, CDE recommended a six month extension of the deadline for READ Act training requirements. Our advocacy is working!

## PMI forms current on the TEA website

Even if the text above them is outdated. You can access the forms in [this folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yHa9tAeU74XplbxtkTZkLb6YfLmSMswT?link_id=1&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-91&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) as well.

## TEA Grants 2020!

The TEA Achievement Grant Committee is proud to announce that the first round of $5,500 in funding has helped support 26 members and many students with supplemental materials to support general supplies, Social Emotional Learning, and Project-Based Learning in our TSD schools. Unfortunately, this round of funding has now been exhausted. The Committee will meet next month to begin reflecting on these 26 grants and discuss how the next round of funding will be offered. Your Association Representative will have more information in January on future TEA Grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

**TEA Achievement Grant Committee**

Carin Barrett, Jill Date, Janelle Joers, Michelle Keenan-Harte, Donna Pabst

## COVID testing covered by district insurance

[Follow this link](https://search.211colorado.org/search?terms=COVID-19%20Testing&page=1&location=80537&service_area=loveland&link_id=2&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-91&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) to see where you can get a COVID-19 test covered by district insurance.

## Leave Etiquette

As you well know, substitutes are in short supply. While TEA is having conversations with the district regarding procedure and the current district protocols, I would ask you to please **call in your absence as soon as you are aware you will be absent.**This helps the district plan as best it can under the circumstances.

Further, TEA recently clarified with the district that you should put in for a sub--HR will attempt to fill it BEFORE your building looks for coverage. This is important--in house coverage should be a last resort, not a first one.

## COVID and school safety--summary of results

As of yesterday, Nov. 11, 370 members had taken TEA's perception survey (404 as of this moment). Here is a broad overview of results as of yesterday.

1.       Most (82%) teachers say the kids are doing at least an average to above average job of following safety protocols. Physical distancing is where they struggle the most (90% of teachers checked that box).

2.       65 percent of teachers ranked in-person learning as better than remote learning (6/10 or better). Responses vary by level; 46 percent of high school teachers rate in-person learning more positively than all remote; 45 percent of middle school teachers; I didn’t do the math, but you can then reasonably infer that elementary teachers believe in-person is going way better.

3.       On the “current state of the virus” question, 66 percent of middle school teachers and 62 percent of high school teachers answered 1/5 or 2/5 on the question (they generally feel uncomfortable being at school). Only about 13 percent of MS and 19 percent of HS teachers answered 4/5 or 5/5.

4.       On the other hand, 61 percent of intermediate teachers and 62 percent of primary teachers feel relatively comfortable being in school right now (4 or 5 out of 5). 24-28 percent of them answered that they felt somewhat or extremely uncomfortable being in school right now.

5.       COVID testing and better communication around quarantines ranked the highest in terms of what would make teachers feel safer at school short of moving to remote learning. Roughly 60 percent of those currently meeting in person (that number is tough to pull out of the data) would like a move to hybrid ahead of going to remote learning.

Having said all of the above, there will come a point where the number and frequency of quarantines (witness Loveland HS's 2-week quarantine today) make it difficult for teachers to provide continuity and predictability of instruction, and for the district to provide adequate coverage for classrooms whose teachers are quarantined. The survey did not directly address this issue.

## Snow day survey coming

Many strong opinions were expressed following the district's announcement that they will be exploring alternative snow day options in the future. TEA and the district have collaborated on a survey that went out in this week's [newsletter](https://www.smore.com/pc41n?link_id=3&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-91&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) from Learning Services. **You have the opportunity to express support or opposition to remote learning on snow days.**Please also understand that this is a short-term problem because we are short on minutes this year. There is no long-term plan to get rid of the classic snow day.

**Solidarity!**

Sincerely,

## https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51019/c/147/images/Andy%20professional%20pic.jpg

Andy Crisman

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