



# DENNIS BONNEN



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

## **COVID-19 ADVISORY**

**March 19, 2020 | RE: SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF**

### **Office of the Speaker**

Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen issued a statement calling on districts to continue paying school support staff affected by COVID-19 school closures:

"The outbreak of COVID-19 has led to thousands of school closures in the State of Texas, raising questions and concerns over whether school support employees -- such as bus drivers and cafeteria workers -- will continue to receive their normal compensation. I want to be clear. Districts can and should continue to pay their employees' regular wages during school closures -- not only because it's the right thing to do, but because the Legislature appropriated historic levels of funding this biennium, and those dollars will continue to flow.

"The Texas Association of School Boards has put forth explicit guidance on how districts should go about this, and so long as our schools are making a good faith effort to continue supporting the education of our students, the state is committed to providing them with the funding they need. I encourage all districts to heed the recommendations of TASB to support these employees, especially during this time of great economic uncertainty for these individuals."

### **Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)**

TASB has published detailed guidelines on compensating school support staff throughout school closings. Their recommendations, along with a detailed series of frequently asked questions and answers, can be found here: <https://www.tasb.org/services/legal-services/tasb-school-law-esource/personnel/documents/personnel-issues-during-epidemics-and-school-closings.pdf>