



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 51

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

Friends,

With much uncertainty concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19), my office is closely following the guidance of the CDC, our health professionals, and our city and state's leadership to support preventive action that will help slow down the spread of COVID-19. If you need assistance finding resources, please reach out to my office.

HISD will begin the fall semester starting on September 8th, learn more about their reopening plan.

HISD continues its summer meals program for families, more details about the program and site locations.

Eligibility requirements for food and nutrition programs have been expanded for Texas families.

The Texas Workforce Commission has updates regarding unemployment benefits.

The Texas Tax Holiday is coming up, just in time for back to school!

Our Westchase neighborhood has launched "Bounce Back Westchase" to offer great deals to our residents and businesses.

It is an honor to serve and represent you in the Texas legislature. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

In This Issue...

- Back to School
- Summer Feeding Programs
- Pandemic EBT
- TWC Unemployment Updates
- Texas Sales Tax Holiday
- Bounce Back Westchase

HISD Reopening

HISD is set begin the fall semester starting on September 8th, 2020. Click on the image directly below to be taken to HISD's website with more details and information.



Reopening Plan

All students will begin the 2020-2021 school year virtually on September 8, 2020. Virtual instruction for all students will continue for six weeks through Friday, October 16, 2020

On Monday, October 19, 2020, face-to-face instruction for students will begin. This date is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the city of Houston and guidance from local, state, and federal health officials.

Parents will have the option to opt out of face-to-face instruction entirely for the fall semester and 2020-2021 school year. Parents who select online-only must attend a virtual class outlining expectations and sign an agreement committing to virtual learning.

Here is a timeline for the re-opening dates:

- **September 8, 2020:** First day of school (Virtual only)
- **October 19, 2020:** Face-to-face instruction begins – subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the city of Houston and guidance from local, state, and federal health officials.
- **September 8 – January 29:** First semester of remote learning for students/parents who choose online-only instruction.

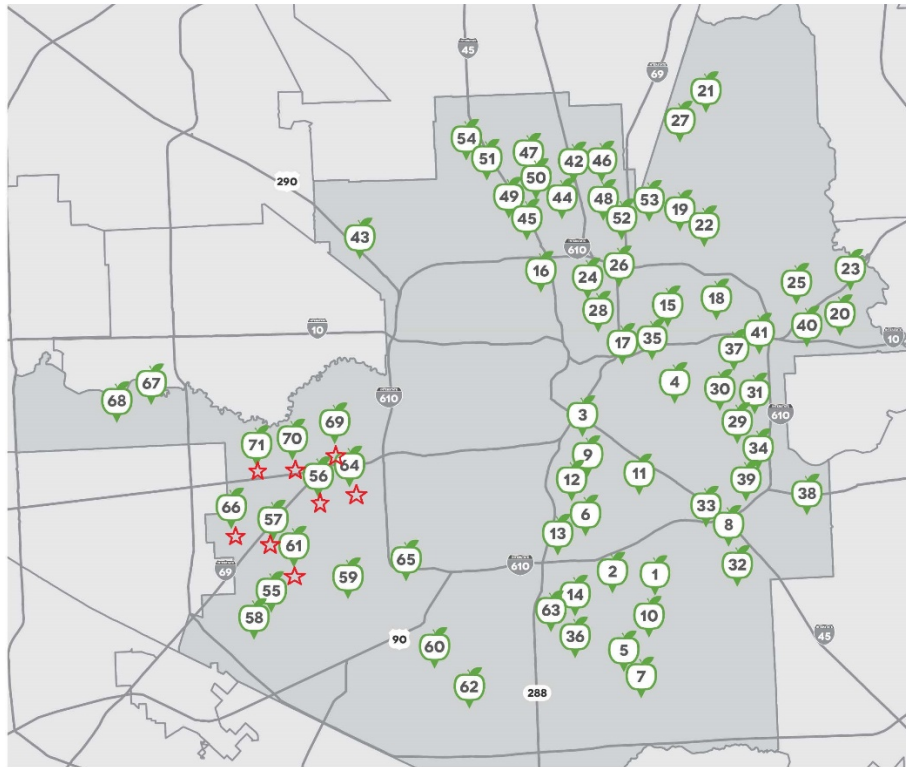
**Parents will have the option to choose remote instruction for the fall semester (through January 29) or entire school year (through June 11).*

- [Download HISD Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 Academic Year](#)

HISD Summer Meals Information


The Houston Independent School District continues providing the Summer Meals Program for all children ages 1 to 18. Until August 31st, families will be able to pick up boxed student meals twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at one of 71 designated schools across the district from a curbside location. Boxes will be provided for all children in the vehicle at pickup. Children are not required to be present, but parents must have proof of enrollment in any school district (report card, student id, etc.) or birth certificate. For more information go to <https://www.houstonisd.org/SummerMeals>

Families can also go to <https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/> for a list of the 250 open partner sites and other assistance available across greater Houston.



MONDAY AND THURSDAY PICK-UP

SOUTH AREA	NORTHEAST AREA	EAST AREA	NORTHWEST AREA	WEST AREA
1. ALCOTT ES: 12-2 PM.	15. ATHERTON ES: 12-2 PM.	29. BRISCOE ES: 12-2 PM.	41. HOLLAND MS: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	55. MILNE ES: 12-2 PM.
2. BASTIAN ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	16. BROWNING ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	30. FRANKLIN ES: 12-2 PM.	42. BARRICK ES: 12-2 PM.	56. BENAVIDEZ ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
3. BLACKSHEAR ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	17. BRUCE ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	31. GALLEGOS ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	43. BENBROOK ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	57. BONHAM ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
4. BURNET ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	18. ELIOT ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	32. GARDEN VILLAS ES: 12-2 PM.	44. BURBANK ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	58. BRAEBURN ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
5. CODWELL ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	19. COOK ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	33. GOLFCREST ES: 12-2 PM.	45. BURRUS ES: 12-2 PM.	59. ELEANOR TINSLEY ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
6. FOSTER ES: 12-2 PM.	20. R. P. HARRIS ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	34. J. R. HARRIS ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	46. COOP ES: 12-2 PM.	60. HOBBY ES: 12-2 PM.
7. FROST ES: 12-2 PM.	21. HILLIARD ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	35. HENDERSON ES: 12-2 PM.	47. DURKEE ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	61. MCNAMARA ES: 12-2 PM.
8. GREGG ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	22. MCGOWEN ES: 12-2 PM.	36. MITCHELL ES: 12-2 PM.	48. GARCIA ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	62. PETERSEN ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
9. LOCKHART ES: 12-2 PM.	23. ROBINSON ES: 12-2 PM.	37. PORT HOUSTON ES: 12-2 PM.	49. KENNEDY ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	63. REYNOLDS ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
10. MADING ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	24. LOOSCAN ES: 12-2 PM.	38. RUCKER ES: 12-2 PM.	50. NORTHLINE ES: 12-2 PM.	64. RODRIGUEZ ES: 12-2 PM.
11. PECK ES: 12-2 PM.	25. OATES ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	39. SANCHEZ ES: 12-2 PM.	51. OSBORNE ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	65. SHEARN ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
12. THOMPSON ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	26. ROSS ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	40. WHITTIER ES: 12-2 PM.	52. RODERICK PAIGE ES: 12-2 PM.	66. ED WHITE ES: 12-2 PM.
13. WHIDBY ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	27. SHADYDALE ES: 12-2 PM.		53. SCARBOROUGH ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.	67. ASHFORD ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
14. WOODSON PK-5: 12-2 PM.	28. SHERMAN ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.		54. WESLEY ES: 12-2 PM.	68. SHADOWBRIAR ES: 12-2 PM.
				69. PILGRIM ACADEMY: 10 A.M.-12 PM.
				70. PINEY POINT ES: 12-2 PM.
				71. EMERSON ES: 10 A.M.-12 PM.

 = HD 137 School

Pandemic EBT

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has expanded its eligibility requirements due to the pandemic. Any family with children in school that are certified for free or reduced school lunch may apply. **Immigration status does not apply to P-EBT benefits.** The application deadline is July 31st.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

P-EBT helps families buy food during COVID-19.



P-EBT is a one-time food benefit for families who lost access to free or reduced-price meals due to school closures.



P-EBT application deadline has been extended to July 31.

P-EBT is for families who meet at least one of these criteria:

- ✓ Children up to 21 years old who are certified for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year.
- ✓ Children who attend a school that offers free meals to all students (Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2).
- ✓ Children ages 5-18 who received SNAP food benefits for March 2020.

Immigration status does not matter when applying for P-EBT. The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

To find out if you are eligible for P-EBT benefits or to get help applying, call the P-EBT call center at 833-613-6220.

Who needs to complete an online application?

- Eligible families not enrolled in SNAP.
- Families with eligible children under the age of 5 or between the ages of 19-21 that received SNAP benefits for March 2020.

SNAP recipients with children ages 5-18 **do not** need to apply.

It is important to put a valid phone number on the application because staff may need to call to approve the application.

How will eligible families get P-EBT funds?

Families that currently receive SNAP will have P-EBT funds loaded onto their Lone Star Card. Families not currently receiving SNAP will be mailed a P-EBT card loaded with benefits. Families will get up to \$285 per child.

What can families buy with the P-EBT card?

Household food items such as fruits, meats/poultry/fish, dairy, and breads. P-EBT benefits can be used wherever SNAP food benefits are accepted.

For more information, visit <https://hhs.Texas.gov/PEBT> or call 833-613-6220



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
This product was funded by USDA.
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Transferencia Electrónica de Beneficios por Pandemia

La P-EBT ayuda a las familias a comprar alimentos durante la pandemia por la COVID-19.



La P-EBT es un beneficio alimentario único para las familias que perdieron el acceso a comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido debido al cierre de las escuelas.



Se ha ampliado el plazo para presentar la solicitud de la P-EBT hasta el 31 de julio.

La P-EBT es para las familias que cumplan al menos uno de los siguientes criterios:

- ✓ Niños de hasta 21 años que estén certificados para recibir comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido a través del Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares (National School Lunch Program) en la escuela en Texas durante el año escolar 2019-2020.
- ✓ Niños que asisten a una escuela que ofrece comidas gratuitas a todos los estudiantes (Disposición de Elegibilidad de la Comunidad o Disposición 2).
- ✓ Niños de 5 a 18 años que recibieron beneficios alimentarios del Programa Asistencial de Nutrición Suplementaria (SNAP, por sus siglas en inglés) para marzo de 2020.

La condición de inmigrante no se tiene en cuenta al solicitar la P-EBT. La regla de carga pública no se aplica a los beneficios de la P-EBT.

Para averiguar si reúne los requisitos para obtener los beneficios de la P-EBT o para obtener ayuda para presentar la solicitud, llame al Centro de Atención al Cliente de la P-EBT al 833-613-6220.

¿Quién necesita completar una solicitud en línea?

- Las familias elegibles que no estén inscritas en el SNAP.
- Las familias elegibles con hijos menores de 5 años o entre 19 y 21 años que recibieron beneficios del SNAP para marzo de 2020.

Los beneficiarios del SNAP con hijos de 5 a 18 años **no** necesitan presentar una solicitud.

Es importante que incluya un número de teléfono válido en la solicitud, ya que es posible que el personal tenga que llamarlo para aprobarla.

¿Cómo obtendrán las familias elegibles los fondos de la P-EBT?

A las familias que actualmente reciben el SNAP se les cargarán fondos de la P-EBT en su tarjeta Lone Star. Las familias que actualmente no reciben el SNAP recibirán por correo una tarjeta de P-EBT cargada de beneficios. Las familias recibirán hasta \$285 por hijo.

¿Qué pueden comprar las familias con la tarjeta de P-EBT?

Alimentos para el hogar como frutas, carnes/aves/pescado, productos lácteos y panes. Los beneficios de la P-EBT se pueden usar donde se acepten los beneficios alimentarios del SNAP.

Para obtener más información, visite <http://hhs.texas.gov/es/pebt> o llame al 833-613-6220



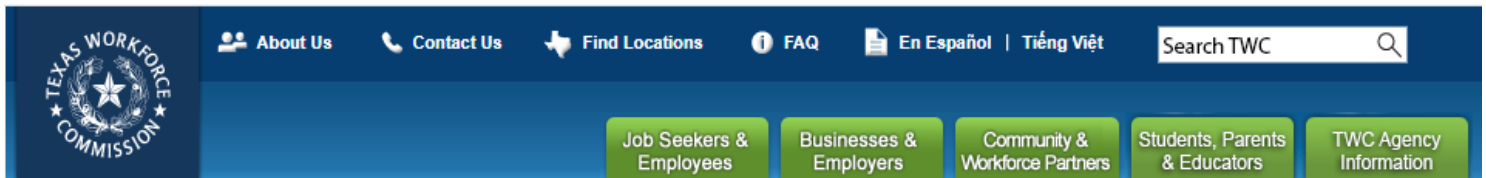
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
Este producto fue financiado por el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA, por sus siglas en inglés).
Esta institución proporciona igualdad de oportunidades.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to End

Please see the update below from the Texas Workforce Commission regarding Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). As a part of the CARES Act, recipients of unemployment benefits have been receiving an additional \$600 in federal assistance. **This assistance has just ended,** and will need to be addressed by Congress in order to have these benefits keep going to Texans who need them. If you would like information on how to get in contact with your federal representatives, please contact my office.



The navigation bar features the TWC logo on the left, followed by links for 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Find Locations', 'FAQ', and 'En Español | Tiếng Việt'. A search bar labeled 'Search TWC' is on the right. Below these are five green buttons: 'Job Seekers & Employees', 'Businesses & Employers', 'Community & Workforce Partners', 'Students, Parents & Educators', and 'TWC Agency Information'.

Information for [COVID-19 FAQ](#), [Employers](#), [Jobseekers](#), [Self-Employed](#), [Child Care](#) and [Unemployed After Returning to Work Guidance](#)

[Update: Work Search Reinstatement Paused.](#)

[Home](#) > [News](#)

TWC: State Unemployment Benefits to Continue But \$600 Federal Payment Ends July 25

Date: July 13, 2020

Media Contact: Cisco Gamez
Phone: 512-463-8556

Other CARES Act Benefits Continue Through December

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission reminds claimants that the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) ends the week of July 25, 2020. FPUC provided an additional \$600 per week to claimants who lost work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Texans will continue to receive state unemployment benefits for the remainder of their claim. For those on regular unemployment that is currently up to a potential 59 weeks and 46 weeks for those on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). The length of time benefits are available is subject to an individual's eligibility as well as state economic indicators.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation was passed as part of the CARES Act. The program provides federal reimbursement to states for an additional \$600 per week. A full benefit week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. The Act states that the program ends July 31, but benefits must be discontinued before the end of the month because by law TWC cannot pay partial week benefits. The last full benefit week for the extra \$600 is the week ending July 25th. As a result, only payment requests for weeks ending on or before July 25 can include the additional \$600. State unemployment benefits will continue to be paid after this date, they simply will not include the additional \$600 anymore.

Other provisions of the federal act do not expire until December 26, 2020. This includes Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides an extra 13 weeks of benefits to persons who exhaust traditional benefits, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides up to 46 weeks of benefits to persons who are self-employed or who would not otherwise qualify for state benefits.

For more information on eligibility requirements, available benefits and questions about the unemployment process, visit TWC's [COVID-19 FAQ page](#).



Texas Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 7-9

With the Texas economy slowly awakening from effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7-9.

The law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The date of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller's [website](#).

To promote social distancing, the Comptroller's office wants all taxpayers to know that during the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) tax free, when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Bounce Back Westchase

Bounce Back Westchase is a great program aimed at helping our Westchase business community bounce back from this economic downturn, by connecting them with residents and offering great deals to help you shop local. Deals change weekly - click on the picture below to learn more!



**BOUNCE BACK
WESTCHASE**

Let's Bounce Back Together

**CLICK HERE TO
SIGN-UP
AND GET NEW CUSTOMERS**

**CLICK HERE TO
GET DISCOUNTS
EMAILED WEEKLY**