

Commissioner Comments

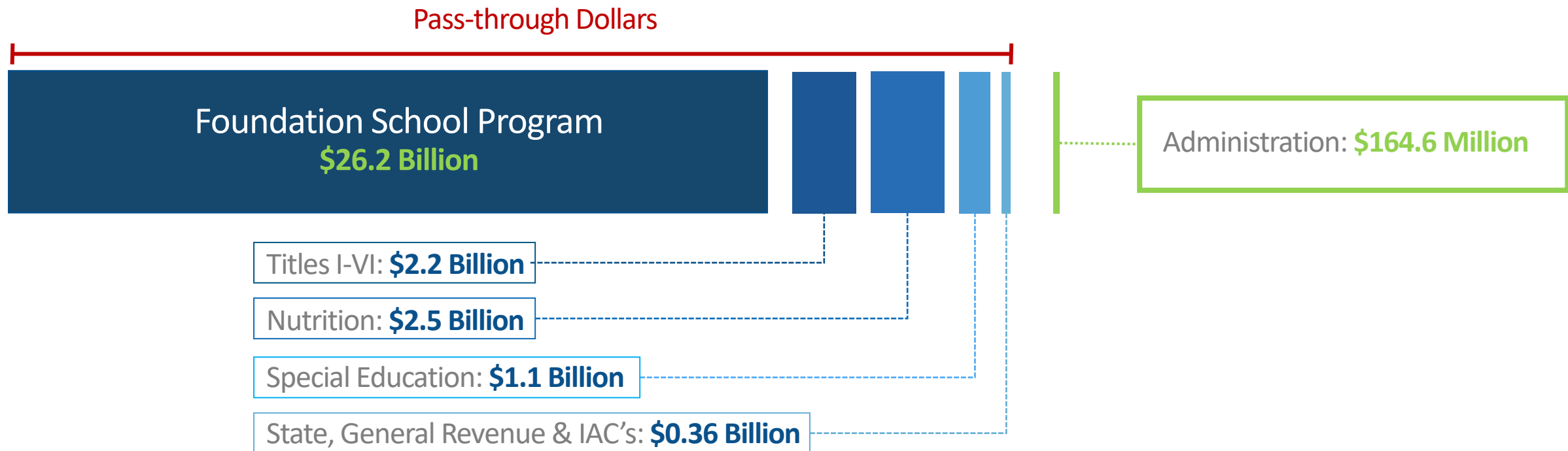
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Legislative Appropriations Request

FY 2021 TEA Agency Budget: \$32.5 Billion

The Texas Education Agency is responsible for the wise fiduciary stewardship of **\$32.5B** in state and federal funding and agency administrative costs totaling **\$164.6M**





COVID IMPACT

Real-Time Data Shows a Significant Impact on Students from Low-Income Families

In **the United States**, as of May 24, 2020, students from low income ZIP codes decreased progress in online math coursework by **55.6%** compared to January 2020.



The COVID Slide is Real

We must ensure that **remote instruction** is delivered as effectively as we possibly can, for all of our students.

Data from students using Zearn, an online math coursework system, on how much student progress occurred relative to normal

Source: Chetty, Friedman, Hendren, Stepner and the Opportunities Insights team, *The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built from Private Sector Data*, Sep 2020.



We must invest in proven strategies to accelerate instruction for the student groups most impacted by COVID-19 learning loss.

Attract and train effective, diverse educators who reflect the student population in Texas communities



\$10 M

Targeted interventions and campus supports to reduce achievement gaps within district and school environments (\$10M)



\$10 M

Significant Rider Changes

- Updated multiple riders to conform with 86th Legislative Changes including HB 3 and HB 3906.
- Added UB authority to several riders.
- Deleted several riders as they are no longer necessary.
- **NEW RIDER. Local Designation Systems and Teacher Incentives.** A new rider is needed to appropriate the fees for the HB 3 authorized fees to support administration of the teacher incentive allotment.
- **Rider 28. FSP Funding for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.** These changes consolidate school funding provided to TJJD under TEA Rider 88 into other school funding provided through TEA Rider 28. This simplifies TEA's bill pattern by allowing deletion of Rider 88, while streamlining program administration. Calculating funding using a non-prorated basic allotment is more transparent and equitable.
- **Rider 39. Capital Budget Expenditures from Federal and Other Funding Sources.** Removed language that could prevent or delay the expenditure of awarded funds unnecessarily as this rider already limits TEA to expending capital funding from external sources for the specific purposes for which the funds were awarded. Removed language regarding the SPED strategic plan because it is out-of-date, as implementation of the plan has been integrated into TEA operations.

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project

TEA's Focus on Health and Safety



Keep school safe in the time
of COVID by making
operational adjustments

Policy and Guidance

- Public Health Guidance
- Remote Instruction Fully Funded for Families that Choose Remote
- On Campus Instruction Flexibility Provided When There is a Health Need to Reduce Density of People On Campus
- Joint TEA/DSHS Case Tracking Requirements

Operational Support, Resources, and Tools

- Public Health Operational Guidebooks & Planning Exercises
- PPE
- Public Health Campaign
- Emergency Child Care Finder
- Meal Finder

COVID Rapid Testing Project Overview

Goal of this effort

In partnership with DSHS and TDEM, keep TX schools safe and open for on campus instruction by strategically deploying rapid COVID testing resources

Testing approach

School systems are provided flexibility to use Abbott Laboratories BinaxNOW tests provided by the state and federal government as their local context requires

Participating in the testing project is optional for Texas schools

Testing can support school systems' efforts to reduce COVID cases on campus

Provide Notice

Prevent

Respond

Mitigate

By conducting tests on campus, school systems can:

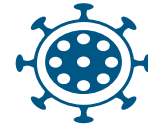
- Use tests as an additional screening tool in some cases to prevent the virus from coming on campus
- Provide another source of testing to which the school can quickly respond by removing the individual before they can spread COVID on campus

Consider the recommended testing approaches



Screening

Recurring testing of asymptomatic individuals. Suggest limiting to staff only.



Targeted Response

Testing of individuals who are symptomatic

While school systems are encouraged to implement the recommended testing strategies, they have flexibility to use the tests to meet the needs of their local contexts. In developing the plan, we encourage LEAs to talk to their local health authority.

About the Abbot Labs BinaxNOW Test



How long does it take to get test results?

15 Minutes



How is the test administered?

Tests are administered with a nasal swab (to the shallow front of the nostrils only). Adults will be able to self-administer the test with the oversight of a test administrator.



How are the tests packaged?

Tests are the size of a credit card and contain a nasal swab and reagent testing solution (one bottle per testing kit). They are packaged 40 to a shoebox-sized kit.



Participating school systems will also receive PPE

- Test kits
- Foldable N95 Masks
- Face Shields
- Surgical Masks
 - *Enough for test administrators and individuals taking the test*
- Gloves
- Gowns

School Board Development Framework