To the Administrator Addressed

DATE:

September 1, 2022. To ensure clarity of expectations, LEAs can <u>this elucumento</u> see each of the survey questions they will be asked. The survey will be open no later than September 1, 2022, arresponses will be due no later than September 2, 2022.

Moving forward, we want to ensure LEAs are aware of a few other actions planned:

TEA will be issuing a proposed rblesed on authority in TECS ections 7.061 and 37.11th at will require all LEAs in Texas to ensure all instructional facilities meet certain facilities standards and that certain related procedures are followed on an ongoing basis. The rule intended to apply to aldistrict and charter school structional facilities, whether leased or owned and regardless of construction dated will similarly reinforce the requirements noted above

With any new requirements that may be imposed, our goal is to provide support to assist LEAs in meeting these requirements. A few items of note:

x TEA will open a data collection allowing LEAs to submit information on any facility components that are not in compliance with theselde-proposed facility standards, along with estimated costs to remedy the compliance. This information will be compiled and submitted to the TexasegislaturTd [(e)@p8 (s)2Tf)-20(a2.230r)0106ts]w-68/h10(a)7

Summer Safety AudiGuidance &Tools

As part of immediate actions to improve campus safety around the state, all LEAs are expected to conduct a targeted safety auditefore the start of the school year. To guide this process TEA and TxSSC are providing Stemmer Targeted Partial Safety Audit To This tool is a limited scope version of the TxSSC School Safety and Security Audit tool, including Dabout questions to be considered for each Lie Atructional facility, with roughly half of the questions related to campus procedures and the other half related to campus physical plant. The tool also includes an optional companion guide to help guide reflections and considerations as LE As dit the effectiveness of heir approach to school safety

As part of the targeted summeratial safety audit, LEAs must inspect every exterior door of each of their instructional facilities. The purpose of this inspection is to verify that every exterior door of instructional facilities closes and locks as intentited insure appropriate levels of campus security. With this audit performed, LEAsbegim taking steps immediately to remedy any issues found o assist in conducting this audit, TEA is providing a template Exterior Door Safety Audit Tracktool. This tool has been designed to establish a short checklist for each door, to verify it is functioning as intended for minimum security, or determine if it is in need of maintenance.

To help LEAs better understand how both of thexes can be used, TEA is hosting a Summer 2022 Safety Audits Webinar on Tuesdayly12at 12:00 noon Register for the Summer Safety Audit Trackewebinarhere.

It should be noted that the information collected from theterior Door Safety Audit, the Summer Targeted Partial Safety Audit, and the TxSSC September veyare all part of a school's safety and security audit dnot subject to disclosure under Ch. 552, Government Code, pursuant to TEC, Sections 37.108, 37.2071, and other relevant statutory provision disclosure exception continues to apply when this information is shared with TEA and TxSSC. Neither TEA nor TxSSCI publicly disclose any individual LEA information in these data but will only provide aggregate statevel data summaries However, per TEC, Section 37.108(c2), the public disclosure exception mayor apply to requests to determine whether information was gathered and whether there was ompliance with required processes

In accordance with TE, Setions 37.108 and 37.109 he results of these audits shall be reviewed by each school safety and security committee at an upcoming meeting and can be reviewed in executive session he Summer Targeted Partial Safety Audit Enterior Door Safety Audit do noteplace the comprehensive and security audits require three every three years by TEC, Setion 37.108. Each LEA should continue to conduct a full safety audit locally as planned however, LEAs will be required to certify that the Summer Targeted Partial Safety Auditand Exterior Door Safety Auditave been completed in the September 2022 report to the TxSSC, as outlined in the Scetter to Superintendents EAs must locally

retain all completed copies of their Summer Targeted Partial Safety AndiExterior Door Safety Audit in accordance with local record retention policies.

Final Note

Please know that both TEA and the TxSSC stand ready to supportives work to make school facilities safer and more secure for staff, students, and visitors have posted some of these school safety resources atttps://tea.texas.gov/texasschools/healthsafety_discipline/safeand-supportiveschools/schoolsafety-resources And f you have any questions, please contact:

TEA: safeschools@tea.texas.gov TXSSCxssc@txstate.edu

We understand that the safety of students and staff is always the top priority of Texas public school systems. While the requirements described herein may be new to a few, we know that most schools in Texas are already implementing these actions and more to keep our students and staff safe. We happen the added supporprovided by the state, both financial and technical, will help further the efforts you are implementing locally to ensure every one of our campuses is both safe and support to students and staff

Yours in Service,

Mike Morath
Commissioner, Texas Education Agency

Kathy MartinezPrather
Director, Texas School Safety Center