



To the Administrator Addressed

DATE:	January 27, 2022
SUBJECT:	Application Deadline Extended for One-time Reimbursement for Winter Storm Uri Remediation Costs under the Texas Education Code, §48.2611
CATEGORY:	State Disaster Repayment
NEXT STEPS:	Funding request submission

Background

Winter Storm Uri created a severe weather and freeze event in February 2021. Because of the severity of the storm, Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster under Texas Government Code, §418.014. Many school districts and open-enrollment charter schools experienced increased expenditures for disaster remediation costs due to the storm. In response, the 87th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1525, which included new provisions under Texas Education Code (TEC), §48.2611, to allow for a portion of the expenses that districts and charter schools incurred because of the disaster to be eligible for reimbursement. The 87th Texas Legislature also included \$35 million in supplemental appropriations to fund this new provision as part of the state budget in Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 18.15(j).

Eligibility

A school district or open-enrollment charter school located in all or in part of an area declared as a disaster by the governor under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, that incurs disaster remediation costs because of the disaster may apply to the commissioner of education for disaster aid assistance. The application for assistance must be submitted during the two-year period following the date of the governor's initial proclamation or executive order declaring a state of disaster.

Reimbursement is limited to costs paid that the school district or open-enrollment charter school does not anticipate recovering via insurance proceeds, federal disaster relief payment, or another source of repayment, in accordance with TEC, §48.2611. These costs must have been paid during the two-year period following the governor's initial proclamation or executive order declaring a state of disaster.

Disaster Reimbursement Process

Disaster aid assistance under this section requires completing a Winter Storm Uri disaster application, a spreadsheet describing costs associated with disaster relief, as well as submission of qualifying documentation (invoices, expense reports, etc.) of the costs associated with the disaster relief application. These documents can be found at the following link:

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/weather-and-disaster/weather-and-disaster-information>

Disaster Reimbursement Guidelines

In 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §61.1006(c)(1), disaster remediation costs are defined as those incurred by a school district or an open-enrollment charter school for replacing school facilities; equipment, including, but not limited to, the cost to repair or replace vehicles or computers damaged in the disaster; and supplies needed to provide instruction at a location where students eligible for Foundation School Program (FSP) funding regularly attend classes.

The complete rule can be found here:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch061aa.pdf>

Deadline

To allow sufficient time for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to ascertain the full extent of their unreimbursed expenditures related to Winter Storm Uri, the deadline for