



Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Friday Beat

## February 11, 2022, Edition

The newsletter that takes a [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child](#) approach.

### Announcements

#### **Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest**

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Zoonosis Control Branch will be conducting its annual statewide "Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest" for K through 12th grade. Students who participate will learn about rabies and the importance of rabies vaccinations for their pets, and respecting wildlife from a distance. Participants will also learn about the need to notify adults if they think they may have been exposed to an animal with rabies. The Zach Jones Memorial Fund provides generous prizes for winners in each age group (Kindergarten and grades 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). The poster contest can be utilized as an informational or procedural text assignment or as an extra credit project. The deadline for poster submission is April 8, 2022. Read more about the [rabies awareness contest](#).

#### **February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**

Teen dating violence is an issue that impacts everyone. Parents, teachers, friends, and communities can help prevent violence and promote safe, healthy relationships. Visit [youth.gov](#) for toolkits, programs, and planning guides for young people, educators, and families.

#### **K-5 Kids Art Contest**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is hosting the Take Care of Texas Kids Art Contest. This contest is a fun way for K-5 students to learn about protecting the environment and come up with creative ways to share this knowledge with others. Students submit their artwork of how they, along with their friends and family, help keep the air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste. The students that submit the best art can win a tablet or laptop computer. The contest closes on March 4, 2022. Learn how to submit artwork to the [TCEQ kids art contest](#).

### Professional Development

#### **Attend the Standard Reunification Method Training of Trainers**

The Texas School Safety Center, in collaboration with the I Love U Guys Foundation, is hosting a no cost Standard Response Protocol/Standard Reunification Method Train-the-Trainer Training. This training covers how to reunite students with guardians after a crisis. The training is 7 hours and designed for participants to lead

training sessions at their own district and implement the program. See dates for virtual and in-person [SRP/SRM Train-the-Trainer training](#).

### **PAX Good Behavior Game Virtual Training**

The PAX Good Behavior Game is a school-based, classroom preventative intervention used by educators to teach self-regulation. PAX Good Behavior Game teaches strategies for teachers to use throughout their day to build students' behavioral skills and stamina for focused attention and on-task behavior. Research by Johns Hopkins University has shown that students who received PAX Good Behavior Game are more likely to experience success in school and have significantly improved lifetime outcomes. See [training dates and registration](#) for the PAX Good Behavior Game.

### **SHAPE America National Convention and Expo 2022**

The SHAPE America Convention will be held April 26-30, 2022 in New Orleans. The convention will bring together the health and physical educator community to network and exchange ideas and attend educational sessions. Attendees will visit the exhibit hall for new products, resources, and services for classrooms. Learn more about the [SHAPE America](#) convention and preview program components.

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators**

The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators recognizes outstanding kindergarten through grade 12 teachers. The award will highlight educators who use innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning. Up to two teachers from each of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 10 regions, from different states, will be selected to receive this award. Read instructions on how to apply for the [EPA's environmental educators award](#). Complete applications must be submitted by February 18, 2022.

#### **Texas Education Agency: Funding for New Teacher Mentor Programs**

The application window for Cycle 3 Mentor Program Allotment is open. This application is for districts interested in implementing a mentor program for new teachers. All applications must be submitted by February 18, 2022. Districts who received funding in previous cycles must complete a new application. See the [TEA new teacher mentor program](#) guidelines and materials for submission.

### **Health Education**

#### **Teen Driving Safety Resource Guide 2022**

Visit the Children's Safety Network to access the [Teen Driving Safety 2022 Resource Guide](#). Teenagers contribute to, and suffer from, the consequences of motor vehicle collisions at a disproportionate rate. This guide will provide information on proven strategies to increase young driver safety, as well as the safety of all road users.

## **Counseling, Psychological and Social Services**

### **Update to Child Protective Services Handbook**

The Child Protective Services Handbook was updated on January 3, 2022. Revised topics include parental rights notification, the Treatment Foster Family Care program, and notification of facilities. View the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' [Child Protective Services Handbook](#) for all revisions.

## **Family Engagement**

### **Free Parenting Tips Calendar and Activity Books**

The Department of Family Protective Services is providing free resources for parents and caregivers of children of all ages. The Parenting Tips Calendar is available in English and Spanish. The children's activity book includes 28 pages of activities and crayons. View [Get Parenting Tips](#) for order information.

## **Community Involvement**

### **Parents Night Out Training**

Community spaces and churches can support foster and adoptive families by hosting respite nights. This webinar will prepare staff and volunteers to become hosts. Discussion will include the importance of respite care, activities, volunteer recruitment, family connections and more. The webinar will take place on February 24, 2022 from 10:00-11:30 am. Learn more and sign up for the [Parents Night Out Training](#).

## **Quote to Note**

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." – Nelson Mandela

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