

To the Administrator Addressed
Re: Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
January 14, 2004
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6. The commissioner authorized that students who participate in the TODASTWD activities be counted present for funding purposes for the one day selected for participation by the district within the allotted time frame, provided that the district has a board-approved field trip policy and/or district plan to participate in the TODASTWD. The authorization for funding includes students in the extended-year program under Texas Education Code, Section 29.082. Copies of all board action and correspondence related to this matter should be kept on file in the district for audit purposes.
7. Districts that select a teacher workday or a day on which school is not in session for the TODASTWD will not receive average daily attendance funding for the day. Districts that choose to participate on a teacher workday may wish to consider adopting a resolution encouraging participation in the TODASTWD. Superintendents are encouraged to work with local community-based organizations to include students who are not in school and who may not have other avenues for participation in the TODASTWD. Students could come to school on a teacher workday with a school district employee as a mentor or participate in the TODASTWD in other work sites through community-based organizations.
8. The commissioner's rule for extracurricular activities (19 TAC Section 76.1001) no longer addresses absences for participation in activities formerly defined as "co-curricular." The TODASTWD should not be counted as one of the allowable absences for extracurricular activities unless the district decides to do so under local policy. As stated above, a student who participates in the TODASTWD may be counted present for funding purposes and should not incur an absence.
9. The national TODASTWD focuses primarily upon students in the middle school/junior high school age range. School districts are encouraged to focus the TODASTWD activities on this age level, rather than on very young students or on those already in high school.

In summary, it is important that district leaders who choose to participate in the TODASTWD activities develop the activity plan and communicate the information to the local community. Parents, students, and business leaders need to be informed that participation in this program is contingent on the local board of trustees adopting a plan to organize structured field trips or to allow individual students to be absent for this day. It should be clearly communicated that individual students are not empowered to participate in the TODASTWD on their own accord. Students who choose to participate in the TODASTWD without board action or local district approval may not be counted present for funding purposes.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Field Services at (512) 463-9354 if additional information is necessary.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ron McMichael
Chief Deputy Commissioner