



March 2, 2021

Dear Orenda Public Charter School Staff and Families,

I hope everyone has made progress towards recovery from Winter Storm Uri (aka “snowpocalypse”) and been able to return to some sense of normalcy. We know it will take time to fully recover from the recent disaster. We were grateful to have staff and students back on campus last week with power, food, and water. Below are several updates and follow-up items.

### **Gov. Abbott Statewide Announcement Today**

You may have heard Governor Abbott’s announcement earlier this afternoon related to rescinding the statewide mask mandate effective March 10. Schools haven't received any new guidance from TEA yet, but the CDC along with state and local health departments are still advising the use of masks as an important step to mitigate the spread of COVID in communities and schools. At this time, we will continue to require masks for all individuals at our campuses. We appreciate your continued diligence in wearing face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID and protect our staff and students.

### **School Closure Days, February 16 – 19**

TEA approved our missed school days waiver for February 16 – 19. Students do NOT need to make up these days.

### **KINGSLAND SCHOOL ONLY – February 11**

Unfortunately, February 11 is not one of eligible days for a missed school day waiver. Starting on March 22, the school day will be extended to 3 pm to make up this missed day.

### **Damage Reporting and Recovery Assistance**

Texas Department of Emergency Management is requesting that all Texans report damages that occurred last week through the following survey: [Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool](#) (iSTAT). This will assist Texas in getting needed resources from FEMA for recovery assistance and connect Texans to disaster recovery resources. Both property owners and renters are encouraged to complete this survey.

### **Additional SNAP Benefits Available**

SNAP recipients can now use their benefits for hot foods and ready-to-eat foods, such as rotisserie chicken or grocery store deli foods, at retailers that accept SNAP anywhere in the state.



SNAP recipients who have had food lost or destroyed due to the storm need to apply for replacement food benefits for regular SNAP allotments and SNAP emergency allotments that were provided in response to COVID-19.

SNAP clients are encouraged to stay home and request their replacement food benefits by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting option 2. Alternately, recipients can download Form H1855 (Affidavit for Nonreceipt or Destroyed Food Stamp Benefits) on the HHSC website. To limit exposure to COVID-19, recipients are encouraged to mail or fax the completed form to HHSC instead of visiting their local offices. Completed forms should be mailed to Texas Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 149027, Austin, TX, 78714-9027, or faxed to 1-877-447-2839. For more information, please visit [www.hhs.texas.gov](http://www.hhs.texas.gov).

Stay safe and well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'.

Carla Silber  
Superintendent/COO  
Orenda Public Charter School District