

Other Legislative Positions

The Texas School Alliance comprises 37 of Texas' largest school districts, serving 40 percent of the state's total pupil enrollment. Our students represent 44 percent of the state's economically disadvantaged student population, 52 percent of its English Language Learners, and 45 percent of all at-risk students in the state. The organization works on issues that will improve educational quality for Texas students, particularly those in large and urban districts. TSA has adopted the following positions for the 85th Texas Legislature.

PRESIDENT

Arlington ISD
Dr. Marcelo Cavazos

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Aldine ISD
Dr. Wanda Bamberg

VICE PRESIDENT

Alief ISD
Mr. HD Chambers

SECRETARY

Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD
Mr. Steve Chapman

TREASURER

Katy ISD
Dr. Lance Hindt

PAST PRESIDENT

Midland ISD
Mr. Rod Schroder

MEMBER DISTRICTS

Abilene*	Irving
Aldine	Katy
Alief	Killeen
Amarillo	Lubbock*
Arlington	McAllen
Austin*	Mesquite
Corpus Christi	Midland
Cypress-	North East*
Fairbanks*	Northside
Dallas*	Pharr-San Juan-
Ector County	Alamo*
El Paso	Richardson
Fort Bend	Round Rock
Fort Worth	San Angelo
Garland	San Antonio
Harlingen	Socorro
Houston*	Spring Branch*
Humble	Tyler*
Hurst-Eules-	United
Bedford	Waco

* Members of TSA Board of Directors

School Choice

- Acknowledge and support the many choice options for students and parents that already exist in Texas public schools.
- Create and fully-fund incentives to promote high-quality choice options in existing public schools, such as funding transportation options for students who elect to participate in a district's choice program.
- Oppose school choice measures that divert money from public schools and that have limited student, academic and financial accountability safeguards.
- Ensure the quality of virtual school options for students by limiting the expansion to only high-quality virtual school providers.

Charters

- Fund traditional public schools in the same manner as charter schools are funded under the Foundation School Program.
- Oppose all facility funding to charter schools.
- Add a line-item in the budget on all state funds appropriated to state charter schools.

Transparency

- Oppose the expansion of required ballot language.
- Ensure that the reporting requirements for all political subdivisions, including the state, are aligned and not overly burdensome.

Ethics for Texas Educators

- Support legislation to strengthen the reporting and training requirements regarding inappropriate teacher-student relationships.

Mental Health Resources

- Increase staff resources to make staff and home visits.
- Support additional counselors to improve the ability to address the mental health needs of students, especially those in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- Study effective models for improving the capacity to address the mental health needs of students.
- Move Computer Science and Technical Applications under career and technical education to assist with course alignment.
- Continue to fund subsidies for students' certification exams.

Governance and Administration

- Support a school district's right to choose from two available bond election dates.
- Fund full implementation and on-going costs for cameras in special education classrooms.
- Requests for cameras in special education classrooms should be for a specific (1:1) classroom, and required only for the one school year in which the request was made or when the student withdraws.

Minutes of Instruction

- Resolve the unintended consequences created by changing the days of instruction to minutes of instruction in HB 2610 (84th).
- Maintain the current flexibility provided by the districts of innovation legislation.

Prekindergarten Funding

- Maximize funding for high-quality prekindergarten programs and create multi-year grants to school districts.
- Provide a minimum per-student funding amount for initial prekindergarten grant applications.
- Fund optional full-day prekindergarten programs.

TRS-Active Care

- Increase access to affordable health insurance for public school employees. Solutions include the following:
 - Provide districts the opportunity to opt out of TRS-Active Care
 - Provide equal state funding for ERS and TRS-Active Care
 - Offer all TRS-Active Care plan options as consumer driven plans with fully-administered HRA or HSA designs
 - Require a wellness plan component and corresponding premium incentives for all TRS-Active Care plans
 - Require that TRS-Active Care include school district representatives in the plan selection process
 - Oppose increasing the employer's funding requirement to support TRS-Active Care
 - Require that the state adjust its contribution towards health-care on a regional basis to reflect regional healthcare costs
- Establish TRS-Active Care premiums to correspond with regional healthcare costs.

TRS Care

- Increase state support for TRS Care without increasing costs to local districts, current employees or retirees.
- Costs Associated with CTE Certification Exams
- Move Computer Science and Technical Applications under career and technical education to assist with course alignment.
- Continue to fund subsidies for students' certification exams.

