



# TACS 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature

The Texas Association of Community Schools is proud to represent over 700 school districts, each with an average daily attendance of 12,000 or fewer. **Our students are our future** – that’s why we believe in providing the absolute best support, resources, and education for the 5 million Texans enrolled in our public schools. So: *where does TACS fall on the issues affecting our students today?*

### SCHOOL FINANCE

#### We Support:

- ✓ A school finance system that provides adequate funding for public schools.
- ✓ Funding school districts based on their Average Daily Enrollment.
- ✓ Legislation to expand TEA’s GROW YOUR OWN Grant program and college debt forgiveness provision for new to the profession teachers.
- ✓ Fully funding all-day Pre-Kindergarten using formula funding.
- ✓ Funding for the public schools and their higher education partners who work together to offer dual credit opportunities to students.
- ✓ A reduction in unfunded/under-funded mandates from legislation and commissioner rules.

#### We Request:

- A report from the Legislative Budget Board during the interim detailing the cost of a “general diffusion of knowledge” as required by law.

#### We Oppose:

- × The diversion of public funds for vouchers, tax credits, education saving accounts, or any other funding mechanism that funnels state funds to private schools.

Enrollment in Texas public schools has increased by 15.6% in the past ten years – that’s 728,189 students!

---

### ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

#### We Support:

- ✓ A comprehensive school accountability system, not one based on high-stakes standardized tests.
- ✓ An assessment system that provides meaningful opportunity for each Texas student, campus, and school district to meet all local, state, and federal performance expectations.
- ✓ The removal of all high-stakes testing from the state’s assessment program.
- ✓ Local assessment measures for writing in grades 4 and 7 that is developed by the classroom teacher rather than a standardized one-day measure that is used for state accountability purposes.
- ✓ Continuation of Individual Graduation Committees for the benefit of students.
- ✓ Local determination of appropriate industry certifications for state accountability purposes.
- ✓ Continuation of the dual credit program, and greater recognition of its value in the state accountability system.

## We Oppose:

- × The A-F system for campus and district ratings.

---

## SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

### We Support:

- ✓ Additional funding for safety, security, and mental health needs of students and staff.

---

## TEXAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

### We Support:



- ✓ The continuation of the state retirement system as a defined benefit system with the vigorous support of state monies.
- ✓ Increased contributions by the state for TRS ActiveCare and TRS Care health insurance to reduce participants' out-of-pocket costs.
- ✓ The continuation of Texas Insurance Code Chapter 1579, Subchapter D (Participating Entities) that does not allow districts to opt-out of TRS ActiveCare unless originally exempted from the program by the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature; however, TACS does support the creation of an optional supplemental health insurance program to support employees.

---

## EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS

### We Support:

- ✓ The state's regional Education Service Centers, because they are critical to the success of our state's school children, are a cost effective delivery system for services that are needed by Texas schools, and serve as a link to the Texas Education Agency regarding education policy issues.

### We Oppose:

- × Any required or expected regulatory oversight of local school districts by Education Service Centers.

---

## UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

### We Support:

- ✓ The UIL as a voluntary and independent association governed by rules and regulations adopted by its member schools.

**Connect  
with Us!**



(512) 440-8227 · [www.TACSnet.org](http://www.TACSnet.org)

**Barry Haenisch**, Executive Director: [bhaenisch@tacsnet.org](mailto:bhaenisch@tacsnet.org)

**Crystal Dockery**, Deputy Executive Director: [cdockery@tacsnet.org](mailto:cdockery@tacsnet.org)

