



# TACS 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Texas Association of Community Schools is proud to represent at least two-thirds of the small and mid-sized schools in Texas and the 5.4 million Texans enrolled in our public schools.

***Where does TACS fall on the issues affecting our students today?***

## SCHOOL FINANCE

### **We Support:**

- ✓ Sustainable state funding for HB 3 (86<sup>th</sup> Legislature), all day pre-K, safety, security, and mental health, with local discretion to meet the needs of students.
- ✓ The State of Texas expanding affordable broadband access - with an immediate effort to assist rural areas in receiving broadband access and having a plan to ensure infrastructure be funded for all areas of the state within the next five years. Any future requirement of remote learning or promotion of electronic materials must wait until such infrastructure has been funded.
- ✓ Tying charter school "small and mid-size allotment" to the same 5,000 student cap as the district small and midsize adjustment.
- ✓ Increased funding for the technology and instructional materials allotment (TIMA) so districts may provide adequate technology and instructional materials to meet higher standards for students.
- ✓ Continuing to incentivize career and technology pathways by remedying issues with current formulas.
- ✓ Continuing to invest in teacher compensation programs using local districts' discretion to recognize outstanding achievement and instructional practices.
- ✓ We support school boards and district leaders continuing to provide stability to districts through the use of fund balance in a fashion similar to the rainy day fund being used for the state's financial stability. These funds allow districts to cover anticipated cash flow deficits (such as delayed state or federal payments), take care of unanticipated issues like building maintenance or replacement due to unforeseen events (such as hurricanes), and cover the costs that come from unexpected growth or a world-wide pandemic.

### **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, homeschooled students, or parents with no academic or financial accountability or transparency to the state, taxpayers, or communities.
- × Forced consolidation of school districts.
- × Further expansion of publicly-funded charter schools.
- × Virtual education without accountability and education standards used for all public schools districts across Texas.
- × Carveouts from TIMA that will cut or reduce funds to school districts.

## ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

### We Support:

- ✓ A comprehensive school accountability system, not one based on high-stakes standardized tests.
- ✓ An assessment system that provides meaningful opportunities for each student, campus, and district to meet all local, state, and federal performance expectations.
- ✓ Use of locally determined industry certification for state accountability purposes.
- ✓ Continuation of the dual credit program, and greater recognition of its value in the state accountability system.
- ✓ A moratorium on accountability tied to state testing for 2020-2021 to enable districts to remediate the effects of learning loss caused by the COVID-19 school closures.

### We Oppose:

- × The A-F system for campus and district ratings.
- × Legislation that would remove local control and Districts of Innovation.

## 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.

## EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS & EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### We Support:

- ✓ The regional Education Service Centers. The ESCs 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.

### We Oppose:

- × Any required or expected regulatory oversight of local school districts by Education Service Centers.
- × Legislation or other measures that seek to limit or restrict school districts' or administrators' ability to be represented before the Texas Legislature, state agencies, and/or the executive branch.

## 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!**



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