



Michael Lee
TARS Executive Director



Leigh Ann Glaze
TARS Assistant

To: Current TARS Membership
From: Michael Lee, Executive Director
Re: State Meetings attended in April

April 25, 2018

TARS Representation at recent State Level Meetings

1. Summary:

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Texas Capitol - The House Committee on Public Education

The committee convened to monitor the agencies and programs specifically passed by the 85th Legislature. The committee considered implementation of HB 21 - Funding of elementary and secondary schools, Implementation of SB 179 -

Relating to student harassment, bullying and cyberbullying, an update on Hurricane Harvey impact, and Implementation of HB 22 - School accountability.

Bill Grusendorf notified the committee of his impending retirement, and he thanked the committee for the implementation of HB 21. He asked for their continued support.

Please review the handouts that are linked below to see specific information regarding the topics discussed about HB 21, HB 22, and SB 179. A handout from Leo Lopez from TEA is on the link and information about accountability from H.D. Chambers is linked as well. The committee noted that the three items that cease to have funding at the end of the biennium are hardship grants, autism and dyslexia grants, and additional TRS funding. These items will need to be reconsidered for refunding.

Link to handouts:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/85R/handouts/C4002018041813001/C4002018041813001.pdf>

2. Summary:

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Texas Education Agency - The Commission on Public School Finance

The Commission which is available to watch by live feed included the following topics: Tax Policy Issues from tax policy experts and from public school association experts and Current Sources of Public Education Funding.

Link to handouts:

[Agenda](#)

Tax Policy Issues Nicole Kaeding, Director of Special Projects, Tax Foundation - [Texas Tax Policy: Options for Reform](#) (PDF) Steven Sheffrin, Professor of

Economics and Executive Director of Murphy Institute, Tulane University - [Fairness and Property Taxes in Texas](#) (PDF) Daphne A. Kenyon, Resident Fellow in Tax Policy, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy - [Improving the Property Tax: Lessons from Other States](#) (PDF) Lisa Christensen Gee, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy - [From Property Tax to ?Revenue Sources, Tradeoffs, Trends](#) (PDF) ITEP Presentation: [Additional Tax Resources](#) (PDF)

Current Sources of Public Education Funding Leo Lopez, Chief School Finance Officer, Texas Education Agency - [FSP Method of Finance Breakdown](#) (PDF)

Tax Policy Issues (Cont) Michael Amezcuita, Chief Appraiser, Bexar Appraisal District - [Testimony to Commission on Public School Finance](#) (PDF) Dale Craymer, President, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association - [Property Taxes and School Finance](#) (PDF) Ray Freeman, Executive Director, Equity Center - [Using Property Tax Collections to Ensure a System that is Efficient and Fair to Both Taxpayers and Children](#) (PDF) Dick Lavine, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Center for Public Policy Priorities - [Potential Revenue Sources](#) (PDF)

3. Summary:

Friday, April 20, 2018

Texas Capitol - The House Committee on Public Education Expenditures Working Group

The Expenditures Working Groups met to discuss the Cost of Education Index, Compensatory Education and Transportation. Chairman Hubert asked each of the presenters for their recommendations at the meeting and charged them as the “experts” to bring good recommendations to the next meeting. No testimony was taken at this meeting.

Link to handouts and video:

<https://tea.texas.gov/schoolfinancecommission/>

[Agenda](#) An archived video of this meeting is available

at http://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=13&clip_id=15082



THE MAJOR THRUST OF TARS IS THREEFOLD:

- To protect the “small school formulas/adjustment,”
- To protect the valuation of agricultural land according to its productivity only, and
 - To fight efforts toward consolidation of small school districts.