



Michael Lee  
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**To: Current TARS Membership**  
**From: Michael Lee, Executive Director**  
**Re: Survey of Information for Finance Commission**

May 4, 2018

On May 3, 2018 the Texas Commission on Public School Finance held a meeting that covered Early Childhood Education, Allotments, and the Permanent School Fund. Please find the link to the meeting's archived video, the Agenda, and the meetings handouts.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair Justice Scott Brister, requested that TEA convene superintendents and principals from all types of Texas school districts to be prepared to present information at the next scheduled Commission Meeting on June 5, 2018. Chairman Justice Scott Brister's charge to the committee members (paraphrased):

***Look into contacting some superintendents, and perhaps principals. Get ideas of things we are making them do or spend that they can do without and if you have any ideas, members of commission, if you have any ideas of potential witnesses. We want to get a representation of rural, urban, big city, mid-city. These are ideas of reform. We are looking for people with ideas with means of reform. Do not want to send a report that says do not do anything, everything is perfect. Looking for people with pro-reform ideas, but if you have somebody who would want to testify that all reform ideas are terrible, and we need to not do anything, we are happy to consider a few of those but make sure they have good reasons, rather than I just do not want to change anything. We do want to do the best analysis we can for the legislature. Also bring people on transportation and special education to briefly speak to the whole commission, we may want to hear from some of those as well. --Justice Brister***

As school practitioners, we know this is a very broad request. This survey is an attempt to solicit information from superintendents and principals to provide the Commission with some input. The Commission spent a great deal of time discussing the "weights and restrictions" of program funding such as Bilingual education and Compensatory Education and how these funds can be spent. Can you offer some ideas of how to make these programs more efficient but still have accountability? What can be done to help in finance, in programs or in general?

Please use the Survey Monkey link listed below to provide us with your input.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8SXBGV>

If you do not have time to look at all of the archived video of the Commission's meeting, find Leo Lopez at the following time demarcation.

Leo Lopez 1:40:40 to 2:34:31 Special Allotments Foundation School Program

[http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/tea/public\\_school\\_finance/20180503/1/](http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/tea/public_school_finance/20180503/1/)

**Recent Texas Commission on Public School Finance Information:**

**May 3, 2018 - .**

## [Agenda](#)

The meeting will be webcast at: <http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/tea/>

### **Early Childhood Education**

Alexandra Hales, Executive Director, Good Reason Houston - [Early Matters: A Historic Coalition on Early Education](#)

Susan Dawson, President and Executive Director, E3 Alliance - [Child Outcomes](#)

Ruth Lopez Turley, Professor of Sociology, Director, Houston Education Research Consortium, Associate Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research - [PreK in Houston ISD](#)

Dr. Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent, Brownsville ISD - [Reaching our Goals: Expanding BISD's Pre-K Program](#)

Linus Wright, Former Superintendent, Dallas ISD and Former Undersecretary of Education, USDE - [Testimony](#)

### **Weights and Allotments**

Leo Lopez, Chief School Finance Officer, and Justin Porter, Executive Director of Special Populations, Texas Education Agency - [Weighted Student Funding Trends under the Foundation School Program](#)

Rachel Quenemoen, Retired from University of Minnesota, National Center for Educational Outcomes (Special Education) - [Students with disabilities: What should we expect?](#)

Israel Cordero, Deputy Superintendent, Dallas ISD (P-Tech) - [Network Approach to ECHS/P-TECH Dallas ISD & DCCCD](#)

Dottie Smith, Managing Director, (Teacher Quality) [Best in Class: Championing Effective Educators for Every Student](#)

### **Permanent School Fund**

David Bradley, Board Member, Texas State Board of Education - [Texas Permanent School Fund Distributions to the Available School Fund](#)



**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.