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Seeking Equitable Funding For Mid-Size Schools

Three quick updates:

1. Reminder that our annual membership drive is underway. Annual dues are \$500 and annual positive adjustments on MS Allotment is around \$900,000 on average/per district. Not a bad trade:)
2. Also, a big THANK YOU to Chad Jones (Sinton) for stepping up to an open VP position. Also, Thank you to Michelle Cavazos (Gregory-Portland) for stepping into the open ESC 2 Board position created by Chad's vacancy.
3. Our first TAMS/TARS/MC Mini-Conference will be held on Sept 22 (10AM) at ESC 6 (Huntsville). TAMS, TARS and Moak-Casey policy network members from ESC's 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 are invited to the face-to-face meeting. All other members will be able to join by Zoom. The purpose of the mini-conferences is to allow our members to meet and discuss issues that directly related to small and mid-size schools and begin our preparation for the 88th Legislative session. Over the next 6 months, we will move from East TX to South TX; then, in the spring, North Tx, Central Tx and West Tx/Panhandle.

Please join if you can and let us hear about your unique needs and challenges as we prepare for the 88th.

(Please [RSVP here for those attending face to face {ESC's 4,5,6,7,8}](#). No RSVP required for Zoom participants)

Take care,
Greg

Have you thanked a TAMS sponsor today? We could not support your MS Allotment efforts without

them.

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CALENDAR REMINDERS:

SPECIAL NOTE: TAMS/TARS December Legislative Conference has moved from December 8th and 9th to December 9th and 10th (due to a conference hotel scheduling conflict.) Please mark your calendars. RSVP will be communicated the week of September 15th.

September 13th: 10AM -Officer Meeting (Zoom).

September 22, 10AM-3PM TAMS/TARS/Moak-Casey Mini-Conference (Hybrid Event)-Huntsville TX @ ESC 6

September 24th : 7:30AM TAMS Board meeting in conjunction with TASB convention

Legislative Update:

- The Legislature adjourned its 2nd Called Special Session, sine die, after finally passing [SB 3](#) (critical race theory bill) and restoring

TEA/TAA Updates:

- [Final Maximum Compressed Tax Rates \(MCR\) and Adoption of Tax Rate for Tax Year 2021](#): Final maximum compressed tax rates (MCR) for school districts' maintenance and operations (M&O)

funding for the legislative branch of government.

- [Amendments were added today in the House to SB 3 \(and accepted by the Senate\) to:](#)

1. Clarify intent on discussing controversial topics
2. Clarify that no private cause of action against school employees is created
3. Clarify that taking out items that were in HB 3979 as passed in the regular session does not mean these should be taken out of the Social Studies TEKS when it is next revised in 2021-2023 (see [list](#) in floor amendment)
4. Specify that the commissioner would appoint a 9-member civics training program advisory board, and the nine members must be current or former educators with 10 years or more of experience
5. Preserve students' ability to have internships with organizations (e.g., companies or groups) that also lobby as long as the student isn't lobbying
6. Clarify that teachers can direct a classroom activity that involves a student communicating with an elected official as long as the school or teacher does not "influence the content" of a student's communication.

- The House and Senate also quickly passed HB 5 to restore funding to the legislative branch of government. The Governor had vetoed this funding shortly after the regular session. The bill also funds \$701 million for a 13th check for TRS for retired educators, \$100 million in property tax relief, and other expenditures.
- Left unfinished was [HB 233](#) on accelerated instruction, which the House today passed to address problems with HB 4545 from the regular session. The Senate did not have a companion bill and thus the

tax rates required under House Bill 3, 86th Legislature, for the 2021 tax year (2021-2022 school year). The Local Property Value Survey (LPVS) opened on July 18, 2021, and closed on August 1, 2021. For more information on tax rate compression, please read the following To the Administrator Addressed (TAA) Correspondence: [TAA Correspondence dated June 3 2021](#)[TAA Correspondence dated August 5, 2021](#)

- COVID-19 Testing Availability
Reminder: With the surge in the COVID-19 Delta variant, we know that schools and parents are in need of COVID-19 testing, and nearly all school systems are providing testing in some form. If your school system is not providing testing, we encourage you to enroll in the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program.
- SY 2021-2022 Enrollment Tracking Reporting Guidance: [Important Reminders:](#)
 1. Enrollment event files should be submitted each week that an LEA is in session based on the local instructional calendar when there is any enrollment or withdrawal activity.
 2. At the beginning of each school year, a cumulative enrollment event file will be loaded. This file must be submitted by September 10, 2021, and contain all students enrolled as of the first day of school.
 3. After the initial cumulative file is loaded, LEAs should continue to submit a file each week that includes the enrollment and withdrawal events with event dates since the last enrollment event file was successfully loaded and processed into the Unique ID system.
- Requirements for Educators
Completing an Internship on Intern

bill died for lack of time in the session.

- The second called 30-day special session was to end Sunday but ended today, sine die. The Governor is expected to call another special session relating to redistricting in the near future and may add other issues such as an Arizona-style election audit to the call.

or Probationary Certificates during the 2021-2022 Academic Year: In accordance with the TAC, during the 2021-2022 academic year, educators completing an internship on an intern or probationary certificate must:

1. Complete their internship in an “actual school setting rather than a distance learning lab or virtual school setting.” Therefore, educators completing an internship on an intern or probationary certificate must be assigned as teachers of record in a face-to-face classroom setting in order to meet preparation requirements.
2. Be observed by a field supervisor throughout the year at the candidate’s school site in a face-to-face setting. Therefore, field supervisors should be classified as allowed visitors on those campuses with educators completing internships on intern or probationary certificates.

RAC Meeting Updates:

- Reminder-Annual Legislative Conference-December 9 & 10-Lakeway Resort. (Hybrid event)
- TAMS Update/Wins from the 87th:
 - Secured the mid-sized allotment in HB 3. Since 2019-20 this has generated around \$165 million per year in mid-sized district allotment for about 200 districts each school year.
 - Mid-sized districts also generate approximately \$25 million each year in extra special education funding due to their mid-sized status.
 - Now, with the passage of HB 1525, mid-sized districts will generate additional career and technical education funding. Based on attendance projections for the 2021-22 school year this is expected to result in \$20-25 million in new CTE funding.
 - HB 1525 also included proration on a number of allotments. TAMS was able to secure the continuation of a non-prorated mid-sized allotment. This is key as proration creates budgetary uncertainty for school districts and reduces their final allotment amount.

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