TACS
We can, together.

2025 ADVOCACY AGENDA

The Texas Association of Community Schools is proud to represent almost 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:

- Increasing the basic allotment to achieve per-pupil funding equal to the national average.
- Using enrollment rather than attendance as the standard for school funding.
- Sustainable funding for all day Pre-Kindergarten.
- Increased funding for the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) with no additional carve-outs so districts may provide adequate technology and instructional materials to meet higher standards for students.
- Continuing to invest in teacher compensation programs using local district discretion to recognize outstanding achievement and instructional practices.
- Any bills that are proposed relating to property tax reductions or that would impact funding for public schools will have a fiscal note which explains the full effect on funding formulas for education.
- Creating an inflationary measure to adjust the basic allotment to ensure funding meets the standards of Texas taxpayers and communities.

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, home-schooled 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 without oversight from elected officials such as the State Board of Education
- Virtual education without accountability and education standards used for all public school districts across Texas.
- 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.

(512) 440-8227 | www.TACSnet.org
Dr. Crystal White, *Executive Director:* CWhite@TACSnet.org
Sheri Blankenship, *Deputy Executive Director*: SBlankenship@TACSnet.org
Colby Nichols, *TACS Government Relations Representative:*
Colby@AnciraStrategies.com

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

We Support:

- A comprehensive school accountability system, rather than 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.
- A system that holds students and parents accountable for school attendance that restores consequences for excessive absences.
- Use of locally determined industry certification for state accountability purposes.

We Oppose:

- Legislation that would remove Districts of Innovation and local control.
- Additional testing, including for elementary students.

TEXAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

We Support:

- Enhancing the use of retired teachers' opportunities to return to the classroom in school districts, with no cost to the district or employee.
- Increased contributions by the state for TRS ActiveCare and TRS Care health insurance to reduce participants' out-of-pocket costs.
- Annual cost-of-living increases to retired personnel to assist in recruiting and retaining school employees.

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS

We Support:

- The regional Education Service Centers. The ESCs are critical to the success of our state's school children and are a cost-effective delivery system for services that are needed by Texas schools.

We Oppose:

- Use of Education Service Centers in a required or expected regulatory role.

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

We Support:

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

(512) 440-8227 | www.TACSnet.org
Dr. Crystal White, *Executive Director:* CWhite@TACSnet.org
Sheri Blankenship, *Deputy Executive Director*: SBlankenship@TACSnet.org
Colby Nichols, *TACS Government Relations Representative:*
Colby@AnciraStrategies.com