TACS
We can, together.

The Texas Association of Community Schools is proud to represent almost two-thirds of the small and mid-sized schools in Texas.

2026-2027 Priorities

TACS districts have historically worked alongside our stakeholders and legislators on the following priorities:

School Funding

- Support enrollment-based funding.
- Index the basic allotment used to fund high-quality programs and services for our students.
- Support legislation that increases and/or modifies the small and mid-sized district allotment to provide additional state funding specifically for qualifying traditional public schools, excluding charter schools that do not meet the same qualifying standards.
- Increase ABC allotment in order to provide for increasing school district costs for areas such as staffing, transportation, utilities, insurance, student supports, and school safety.
- Consider reducing statutory restrictions on school-district bond authority so that, subject to approval by local voters, districts have greater flexibility to finance needs.
- ISDs are uniquely positioned to expand access to full day high quality Pre-K programs with existing campuses, trained educators, transportation systems and local relationships with families. Protect local control by allowing the public school district to continue expanding their services and determining the delivery of Pre-K instruction without seeking approval from a Pre-K partnership intermediary.
- Increase transportation allotment to ensure underfunded transportation requirements are met.

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Local Control

- Give elected school board trustees the opportunity to make the decisions regarding facilities, personnel, expenditures, and appropriate coursework and curriculum for the students in their community.
- Strengthen local control of education service centers in order for them to continue to meet the individual needs of school districts.
- District flexibility with calendars based on community feedback and votes from their locally elected officials (trustees/board members) on what is best for their students.
- Protect local Education Foundation funds – Preserve the local control and intended purpose of funds by community-supported education foundations, ensuring dollars raised locally remain available to support the initiatives identified by the foundation board.

Strong Instructional Practices

- Full funding for pre-kindergarten student programs. This is the best research-based method to improve student achievement and academic success by the third grade.
- Adequate funding for Special Education.

Accountability

- Assessment systems that provide meaningful opportunities for each student, campus, and district to meet all local, state, and federal performance expectations.
- Oppose expanding Texas Education Freedom Account and any charter school expansion without academic and finanical transparency and accountability.

Educator Compensation

- Invest in educator compensation programs with locally developed criteria to recognize outstanding achievement and instructional practices. Included in those compensation programs would be funding to offset the additional required TRS contributions.
- Increased contributions by the state for TRS ActiveCare and TRS Care health insurance.
- Cost of living increases to retired personnel to assist in continuing to recruit and retain school employees.

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