



The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) was established in 1946 and is the trusted resource for school finance and operations in Texas. TASBO has more than 6,300 members from school districts, charter schools, regional service centers and other entities and is recognized as “THE trusted resource in school finance and operations.”

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SUMMARY

FOCUS ON IMPROVING HOW SCHOOLS AROUND THE STATE ARE FUNDED

TASBO supports the creation of a dynamic funding model that addresses the needs of Texas’ changing student population, changes in economic conditions, and allows Districts and Charter Schools to have greater local control over programs and operations. Furthermore, taxpayers want some relief from Chapter 41 Recapture, which affects more and more communities.

The current school finance formula inputs have remained substantially unchanged for more than 30 years. Yet, the student demographics have seen dramatic changes. The number of economically disadvantaged students has increased over the last decade by more than the total increase in student population and demographers are projecting even greater numbers in the future.

To address the challenges that lie ahead, TASBO supports:

- Updating outdated formulas and weights to fund the true cost of education;
- Recognizing the funding challenges associated with rapid declines in property and/or student enrollment; and,
- Recognizing the economic challenges encountered by small rural and remote districts faced with the ASATR funding cliff.

PROVIDE FOR GREATER EQUITY IN SCHOOL FACILITIES FUNDING

The population of students enrolled in public education has increased by more than two million over the last 20 years. The construction cost index, and state and local building codes have increased

significantly during this time; however, the funding formula weights in the Existing Debt Allotment and Instructional Facilities Allotment formulas have remained frozen.

Districts have large amounts of deferred maintenance due to the cumulative impact of the inadequate school finance and debt funding formulas. To recognize the needs of rapidly growing districts and districts in areas of the state with low property values TASBO supports:

- Updating the current EDA and IFA formulas to provide property tax relief for taxpayers and consideration of combining the EDA and IFA programs into one funding stream;
- Ensuring the continuation of the New Instructional Facilities Allotment and expanding the allotment to include campuses which are repurposed by the District for another use, such as, the expansion of a Pre-K program or the creation of an alternative high school; and,
- A comprehensive study of deferred maintenance needs in Texas public schools to identify the growing deferred maintenance costs.

FOCUS ON MEANINGFUL TRANSPARENCY IN TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Texas Public Schools provide transparency to their local constituency, taxpayers, and leaders at the state level, on a daily basis. TASBO supports a system of meaningful transparency that serves to increase the knowledge and state leadership’s public policy goals for academic outcomes and performance levels through:

- Minimizing duplicative reporting requirements by the Texas Education Agency through the meaningful use of existing PEIMS data;

- Modernization of practices for posting public notices to reach a higher number of constituents and to reduce costs, such as posting on the District's website; and,
- The use of automated financial and academic reporting and forecasting tools, such as Forecast5 that highlight a district's academic and financial performance.

★ ATTRACT & RETAIN TALENT THROUGH COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

Public education in Texas is one of the largest business enterprises in the State. Public Schools employ more than 670,000 employees with varying roles and responsibilities across more than 8,600 campuses. School officials are also tasked with addressing the needs of an increasingly complex student demographic. To get better outcomes, Texas needs to support the workforce. TASBO supports:

- A school funding model which allows Districts and Charter Schools to provide competitive wages and benefits to its workers; and,
- Actuarially sound retirement and benefit programs through the Teacher Retirement System.

★ REDUCE THE LEVEL OF UNFUNDED MANDATES

Reducing the level of unfunded mandates would redirect activities from compliance to outcomes thereby freeing up time and resources for value-added activities. Recent laws, rules and regulations have had significant unintended financial and personnel costs to Districts. TASBO supports:

- A system that fully analyzes, discloses and funds the true cost of implementation for new and changed requirements in laws, rules, and regulations.



★ ABOUT THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS (TASBO)

A well-run school district will ensure that the maximum amount of resources are placed in the classroom. TASBO continues a tradition of supporting K-12 schools and their business and operations professionals, with live and online training, school data, consulting and an online community.

Currently, TASBO has approximately 6,300 members and 29 regional affiliates, representing more than 850 public school districts in Texas.



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