

2008–10 TASB Advocacy Priorities

Priority 1: Salary & Benefits

TASB supports state funding for competitive salary and benefit packages for all school districts with an annual cost of living adjustment to attract and retain qualified employees.

Priority 2: Adequacy

The current education system is not adequately funded. TASB supports an inflation-indexed educational funding structure that provides increased state funding commensurate with the escalating cost of education, including the rising costs of utilities and transportation and the ever-increasing standards for student performance.

Priority 3: Students—Career and Technology Education Programs

TASB shall support expanding the “4x4” curriculum to include career and technology courses with credit and funding beginning in middle school; promoting multi-district cooperatives reflective of the local workforce; and seeking funding to implement career and technology programs and certification exams.

Priority 4: Technology

TASB supports increased technology funding to provide districts with necessary resources for online testing and virtual courses.

Priority 5: Finance Equity

TASB supports an equitable formula-funded school finance system that allows community access to equal amounts of total revenue per local tax effort, allows the public school system to capture fully the benefit of increasing property values, and recognizes communities’ unique challenges arising from differences in student populations.

Priority 6: Prekindergarten School Finance

TASB supports educational opportunities for Texas students through an expanded prekindergarten program at local district option, including funding for expanded eligibility or a full class day.

Priority 7: Dropout Rates

TASB supports increased funding for the implementation of programs in public schools that identify and provide interventions and curricular opportunities for at-risk students beginning at the elementary school level to decrease dropout rates.

Priority 8: Unfunded Mandates

TASB supports funding the actual cost of any required programs and services implemented by laws, rules, and regulations, and opposes the imposition of any new unfunded or underfunded mandates.

Priority 9: Vouchers

TASB opposes private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, scholarships, and other such programs funded with public tax dollars.

Priority 10: Facilities Funding (Instructional Facilities Allotment, Existing Debt Allotment)

TASB shall support increasing equalized facilities funding for both the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and Existing Debt Allotment (EDA), as well as automatically rolling forward the EDA each biennium for all bonded debt not covered by IFA.

Priority 11: Alignment of the State and Federal Accountability Systems

TASB supports a single, less complex accountability system that recognizes individual student progress, reduces state testing, and implements constructive measures before sanctions.