#### Texas Association of School Boards

# 2024-26 Legislative Priorities

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide educational association established in 1949 to serve local Texas school boards — the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state with more than 7,000 school board trustees.



Our mission is to promote educational excellence for Texas public school-children through advocacy, visionary leadership, and high-quality services to school districts.

## TASB Advocacy Agenda Priorities

TASB values the students, parents, legal guardians, teachers, staff, taxpayers, and locally elected trustees who form the public education community in Texas. We support the continuous improvement of public schools and believe decisions related to education should be made through the lens of educational opportunity, meaningful accountability, and clear expectations.

By partnering with legislators and other key decision-makers on the following priorities, we will enhance educational outcomes and experiences for students, continue to provide an educated workforce, and, in turn, bolster the economic prosperity of our state.

### **Invest in Students**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to fulfill its constitutional obligation to invest in students. The state of Texas will:

- Support students and properly resource all public school classrooms by increasing the basic allotment, biennially adjusting it for inflation, moving to an enrollment-based funding model, and ensuring all state requirements are completely funded.
- · Invest in teacher recruitment and retention.
- Ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.
- Create transparency in the recapture system to ensure local tax dollars intended for public schools are used for public schools.

# Empower Local Communities

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to empower communities to govern their schools by removing barriers that limit school board members from fulfilling their duties. Also, locally elected trustees must have the authority and flexibility to:

- Access and review updates in a timely manner — to manage a meaningful, consistent, and transparent state accountability system.
- Protect students and staff by implementing safety measures — completely supported by state funding — that meet the unique needs of their campuses and communities, including flexibility to address mental health needs and student behavior.
- Advocate for their students and schools.

