

TASB ADVOCACY RESOLUTIONS

May 10, 2022

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TASB annually calls upon Boards to submit new Advocacy Resolutions that will help form TASB's responses to issues before the Legislature and other governmental entities during the legislative session.

TASB will be accepting resolutions between April 1 and June 15 of 2022.

In consideration of the TASB Advocacy Agenda efforts, the Denton ISD Board of Trustees approved and submitted the following proposed resolutions in 2021:

1. Advocates for improved and sustainable funding of the school finance system/maintenance or increase of state share.
2. Advocates for improved mental health resources for students, **teachers, administrators, support staff.**
3. Advocates for providing additional resources for school security and student safety.
4. Advocates for the continued ability for school districts to lobby on behalf of constituents, parents, and students.
5. Advocates for legislation which opposes vouchers and privatization vouchers.
6. Advocates for support and solutions for staff recruitment and retention.
7. Advocates for reduced testing.
8. Advocates for charter transparency and limiting expansion of charters.
9. Advocates for disaster response.

Resolution: Advocates for improved and sustainable funding of the school finance system/maintenance or increase of state share.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to maintain the promises and dedication of funding made in the new school finance system implemented under House Bill 3 (86th Session) and to equitably share the cost of education with local school districts.

Resolution: Advocates for improved mental health resources for **students**, teachers, administrators, and support staff.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon Texas Legislature to increase state funding for access to proactive mental health services and support in public schools to improve the physical safety and psychological well-being of our staff, especially as they cope with additional anxiety related to COVID-19.

Resolution: Advocates for providing additional resources for school security and student safety.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to work with public school districts and their locally elected trustees to enhance school safety measures, including funding for school safety audits, the school safety allotment, and other measures that ensure the safety of students and staff.

Resolution: Advocates for the continued ability for school districts to lobby on behalf of constituents, parents, and students.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to recognize and preserve the right of public school boards to associate and collaborate with each other and to communicate the needs of their students and schools, either directly or through representative organizations, with lawmakers. Specifically, TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to preserve the right of local elected officials to advocate on behalf of the constituents, students, and parents they represent, thereby ensuring state elected officials are provided information directly from constituents and not solely from special interest groups.

Resolution: Advocates for legislation which opposes ~~vouchers and privatization vouchers~~ **any attempt to establish a voucher that will divert scarce public education funds from public schools.**

Statement of reasons: **School choice initiatives have a history of lower student performance and outcomes. Accordingly,** it is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to prevent any transfer of public funds through the use of vouchers to private entities that do not follow the same transparency and accountability requirements governing independent school districts, including prohibitions on tax credits, education savings accounts, and other privatization measures.

Resolution: Advocates for support and solutions for staff recruitment and retention.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to support adaptive and creative local solutions for recruiting and retaining high quality educators in our independent school districts and to help elevate the teaching profession by incentivizing education degrees and providing additional funding for TRS Care, ActiveCare, **and/or other supplemental insurance**, along with ensuring defined retirement benefits for teachers through TRS.

Resolution: Advocates for reduced testing.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to continue to reduce state assessments by eliminating those not required by federal law and to prohibit standardized tests from serving as the primary indicator of school and student performance. TASB advocates for additional support for non-high-stakes assessment alternatives, such as writing portfolios and adaptive exams.

Resolution: ~~Advocates for charter transparency and limiting expansion of charters.~~ **stopping the expansion of charter schools in high performance school districts until such time as charter schools have outcomes, accountability, and financial transparency standards equal to traditional public schools.**

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon Texas Legislature to evaluate the impact that new and expanding charter schools have on the state budget and on local public schools, and to increase the transparency of charter schools and their operators, especially with regard to enrollment and expulsion practices, business operations, and expenditures. The Texas Legislature must prohibit the wasteful use of tax dollars caused by funding two school systems through charter school expansion, particularly in areas in which traditional public schools are already successful.

Resolution: Advocates for disaster response.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon Texas Legislature to continue working with local school districts to identify and address student needs during and after disasters, such as access to technology and broadband service, mental health resources, meals, social services, and remediation upon returning to school, **including review, modification and possible suspension of the state accountability and A-F rankings.**

Proposed Resolution

Resolution: Advocates for continued local control over school building projects, providing taxpayers the ability to develop infrastructure through local elections.

Statement of reasons: Local taxpayers know better than elected officials how to spend their tax dollars. As Texas continues to enjoy growth in its economy and population, infrastructure is needed. Local Taxpayers must maintain control over their tax dollars and determine how bond elections should be managed and held, without interference from Austin legislators.

Proposed Resolution

Resolution: Advocates for the requirement that ballot language be truthful.

Statement of reasons: Ballot language should not confuse or provide misinformation to voters. For example, ballots should not require language to say “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE” when the statement is untrue.

Proposed Resolution

Resolution: Advocates for universal pre-k programs that will give all families with preschool-aged children the opportunity to voluntarily enroll their child in a publicly-funded education program.

Statement of reasons: It is the recommendation of Denton ISD that TASB call upon the Texas Legislature to support the provision of consistent, nurturing, and developmentally-appropriate opportunities for pre-school aged children to grow in cognitive and social development abilities.

QUESTIONS?