

January 5, 2024

Dear Dr. Ott,

Thank you for your school district's application to the Trustee Advocates Program.

Congratulations! We are pleased to invite **Temple ISD** to join the second cohort of the Raise Your Hand Texas' Trustee Advocates Program in preparation for the 89th legislative session.



This invitation includes a grant award that covers all transportation, food, and accommodation costs for the superintendent and up to three (3) Trustees for each session that occurs in Austin. Other district staff may attend at district cost. Each trustee that participates in a Session also receives continuing education credit.

Temple ISD distinguished itself during our competitive selection process that included 25 school district applicants from across Texas competing for eight (8) program slots. The breadth and depth of experience and interest among this applicant pool affirmed a strong interest and a demand for capacity building in the area of public education advocacy.

Our team at Raise Your Hand Texas is eager to help your school district find and amplify its voice in state legislative advocacy, influence education policy and engage your community in this vital effort. All of the work is issue-based, non-partisan, and in alignment with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Requirements for your participation in this program include:

- Stability of superintendent leadership for the duration of the program.
- Time commitment by the superintendent and each Trustee for active engagement and participation in the program.
- Willingness to participate in election year advocacy and legislative year advocacy.
- Commitment to include the community in your district's state legislative advocacy.

Trustee Advocates Program Schedule

The following schedule outlines the training session dates, locations, and participants.

Session 1	February, March, or April 2024 (exact date selected by the school district)	Various (within each school district)	Team of 8 and any district staff
Session 2	April 17-19, 2024	Austin	Superintendent, up to 3 trustees on a rotating basis, any district staff
Session 3	September 18-20, 2024	Austin	Superintendent, up to 3 trustees on a rotating basis, any district staff
Session 4	January 15-17, 2025	Austin	Superintendent, up to 3 trustees on a rotating basis, any district staff
Session 5	April 9-11, 2025*	Austin	Superintendent, up to 3 trustees on a rotating basis, any district staff
Session 6	June 26-28, 2025	Online	Superintendent, up to 3 trustees on a rotating basis, any district staff

The above schedule is subject to change.

* Graduation

What's next?

Please review the following list of action steps.

1. Create a board agenda item at a January school board meeting to consider the acceptance of this invitation to participate. Please review the commitments listed in the following form titled "Trustee Advocates Program Acceptance to Cohort 2" to consider this commitment.
 - a. **To do: Consider acceptance at a January school board meeting.**
2. Following favorable board action, return the signed "Trustee Advocates Program Acceptance to Cohort 2" form to Missy Bender at mbender@ryht.org by 5:00pm on Friday, January 26, 2024.
 - a. **To do: Return completed acceptance form to Raise Your Hand Texas.**
3. Once all of the school districts have accepted the invitation to participate and submitted their form to Raise Your Hand Texas, we will make a formal public announcement of the cohort to the media and through our social networks.

In addition, we will supply a press release to your school district for its use. Please do not make a public announcement about your district's offer or participation in this program until we make the announcement first! The timing of this announcement will occur toward the end of January.

- a. **To do: Add the contact information of your school district's communications leader in the [Cohort 2 District Communications Contacts spreadsheet](#).**

- b. To do: Wait to make any public announcement about your district's participation in this program until we provide a press release to you around the end of January.**
4. Select three (3) date options for your school district's first Trustee Advocates Program Session that will take place in your school district. District staff may also attend, if desired.
- a. To do: Notify Missy Bender at mbender@ryht.org of your top 3 date choices from the 16 options listed below as soon as possible. Please include the desired time of day for a 3 hour training session.**
- i. Thursday, February 22
 - ii. Friday, February 23
 - iii. Monday, February 26
 - iv. Friday, March 1
 - v. Monday, March 4
 - vi. Wednesday, March 6
 - vii. Monday, March 11
 - viii. Thursday, March 14
 - ix. Tuesday, March 19
 - x. Thursday, March 21
 - xi. Monday, March 25
 - xii. Wednesday, March 27
 - xiii. Wednesday, April 3
 - xiv. Thursday, April 4
 - xv. Monday, April 8
 - xvi. Thursday, April 11
5. Share your school district logo with our communications team.
- a. To do: Please upload your school district logo to the [Cohort 2 District Logos](#) folder by January 26, 2024 so that we may use it in the press release and on our website.**

Thank you for your advocacy and interest, and congratulations on your invitation to participate in this program! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

Missy Bender

Missy Bender
Trustee-in-Residence
Regional Advocacy Directo



Trustee Advocates Program Acceptance to Cohort 2

School District: _____

Instructions: Please consider acceptance of the opportunity to participate in the Trustee Advocates Program and making the associated commitments in a school board meeting before Friday, January 26, 2024.

Please consider the following commitment statements to help your school district to evaluate and consider the timeliness of this opportunity.

The school board's and superintendent's commitment to participate in this program includes:

- Stability of superintendent leadership for the duration of the experience.
- Commitment to include the community in your district's state legislative advocacy.
- Time commitment by the superintendent and each Trustee for active engagement and participation in the experience.
- Commitment to rotate the trustee attendance in the learning sessions within the school board so that each trustee has an opportunity to learn and participate.
- Commitment to develop a culture and system of advocacy in your school district to sustain legislative advocacy and engagement after the program ends.

Please sign and return this form to Missy Bender at mbender@ryht.org in order to accept the Trustee Advocates Program award by 5:00pm on Friday, January 26, 2024.

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Trustee (Signature)

Trustee (Print)

Superintendent (Signature)

Superintendent (Print)

Date