



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Approval of TASB 2022-24 Advocacy Agenda Resolutions

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Deputy Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: June 7, 2022

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: June 7, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the following TASB Advocacy Resolutions. TASB will name a Delegate Assembly to adopt resolutions to present during the upcoming legislative session.

1. The use of student enrollment in the calculation of weighted ADA;
2. Plan to increase school funding over time to provide an amount by 2030 that equals or is better than the national per student average;
3. Develop formula driven mechanisms to be implemented annually to increase the basic allotment to keep up with inflationary pressures;
4. Propose legislation that reviews modifications made to the state maximum compressed tax rate;
5. Fund a statewide , univernal high quality full day pre-kindergarten program at a full time rate and include funding for facility modifications;
6. Fund and support special education programs and funding for facility modifications;
7. Allow for retired school personnel to fill vacant positions without penalties to individual or district that hires retired personnel;
8. Allow the extension of the educator certification waiver created by exodus of teachers leaving the profession and teacher shortage;
9. Allow retired school personnel to substitute vacant positions for up to 90 days instead of the current 20;
10. Repeal the A-F Rating and support a rating system that places emphasis on local accountability;
11. Revise the sanctions to campuses and districts that receive a D rating over two consecutive years as the same sanctions applied to F-rated campuses;
12. Adopt an accountabilty system that informs school districts about accountability standards no later than the beginning of the school school year;
13. Modify the current accountability system to increase the weight of the community based measures for district and campus ratings;
14. Make available state assessments in a student's native language for recent immigrants entering school at the secondary level;
15. Provide a state definition and tracking of long-term English Language Learners;
16. Allow school districts the flexibility to use of Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment funds to support digital transformation;

17. Support for public internet and Wi-Fi throughout the community;
18. Streamline the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills to limit standards for each subject at each grade level;
19. Adequately fund the IMA to ensure that districts are able to meet increasing costs and adequately fund required adoptions;
20. Adopt measures or initiatives that would designate the use of Foundation School Program funding for mandated programs;
21. Adequate funding to be provided for districts to provide a more equitable environment for all;
22. Revise the number of fire drills required each school year to decrease those but to increase the number of lockout/secure drills that are required;

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Advocacy Resolution

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for Limit the number of Fire Drills Required at the campus level and increase the number of Secure/Lockout Drills

Statement of reasons: The state curently requires school districts to conduct one fire drill every month but only 2 lockdown drills a month. More emphasis needs to be placed on lockout/Secure drills

I hereby certify that the above proposed resolution was approved by our board on June 7, 2022
(Date of meeting)

Board president’s signature _____

Name of school district United Independent School District

County-district number 240903

Please e-mail your board’s proposed resolution(s) by June 15, 2022, to Athena Frangeskou with TASB Governmental Relations at athena.frangeskou@tasb.org.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for Funding PK programs at full day rate.

Statement of reasons: The state currently funds full day programs as only a half rate. This is not feasible since these programs require a full time aide and many times modifications to existng builidngs.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for using student enrollment in the calculation of the weighted average daily attendance instead of the current "seat time" attendance reporting.

Statement of reasons: Due to the pandemic, student attendance rates have been lower than average. Districts continue to staff campuses to instruct all school days regardless of student attendance rates. Campus staffing is not based on student attendance but on student enrollment (i.e. 22:1 K-4th grade).

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Proposed resolution: for a plan to increase school funding over time to provide an amount by 2030 that equals, at a minimum, the national per-student funding average.

Statement of reasons: The State of Texas needs to recognize the limitation of addressing school funding every 2 years and establish a financial goal for Texas public schools and what they expect and would want Texas public schools to be like in the "30's".

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for a formula-driven mechanism or index, to be implemented annually, to increase the basic allotment to keep up with the additional inflationary pressures in public school.

Statement of reasons: The current funding formula, set every 2 years by the legislators, does not provide the resources needed by public schools to keep up with additional inflationary pressures such as health insurance with an annual medical inflation over 5%. Health insurance makes up 10% of United ISD’s budget.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for legislation that reviews modifications made to the state maximum compressed tax rate outlined in House Bill 3 (86th session).

Statement of reasons: The limitation of the state maximum compressed tax rate does not allow school districts to fully fund the needs of budgets that are requiring more funds to address inflation such as health insurance with annual medical inflation of over 5% and other funding factors that are not addressed by TEA’s funding mechanisms.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for full funding for statewide, universal, high-quality full-day prekindergarten programs to include facilities.

Statement of reasons: Due to the pandemic, United ISD has seen a substantial decrease in numbers of PK and K students. This is very concerning knowing that these students, if not receiving a proper education from a certified teacher, will fall behind in their educational attainment. By providing full funding for PK programs, districts can offer more educational support (i.e. teacher aides) and opportunities for these early age students.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for adequate funding and support for special education.

Statement of reasons: Special education students deserve full support to address their specific needs. United ISD has spent up to 150% of the foundation money provided for special education. There are several services that must be provided that are beyond a classroom setting such as PT, OT, vision, etc.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for retired school personnel to be allowed to fill vacant positions without penalty to their retirement benefits or penalties to school districts who hire retired personnel to fill vacant positions

Statement of reasons:

Due to staffing shortages in various positions across the district and due to the remoteness of United ISD, it is highly recommended that school districts be allowed to hire retired personnel to fill these critical vacancies. We are advocating for both professional, para professional and auxiliary vacancies. It has become extremely difficult to fill vacancies for positions that are critical to run the daily operations of a school system.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for the extension of the educator certification waiver created by the exodus of teachers leaving the profession and teacher shortage.

Statement of reasons: Districts are not able to fill teacher vacancies, and those that are working towards the standard certificate need additional time of at least three years for the following reason: teacher workload, testing schedule, availability of testing dates, and constraint of seat count to participate in testing.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates all retired school personnel be authorized to substitute vacant positions for up to 90 school days instead of the current 20.

Statement of reasons: Districts continue to have difficulty covering teacher absences.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for legislation that repeals the notion of rating school districts on an A-F scale and supports a rating system that places emphasis on local accountability.

Statement of reasons: The accountability system is appropriate and equitable as it is right now; however, if a local accountability component would be added, it would help reflect the campus environment as whole.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for an accountability system that does not apply the same sanctions to campuses and districts that receive a D rating over two consecutive years as the sanctions applied to F-rated campuses.

Statement of reasons: There should be sanctions that differ between ratings in order to differentiate the support required to assist campuses in their efforts to improve their performance.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for an accountability system in which the Texas Education Agency informs school districts about accountability standards no later than the beginning of the school year in which the standards are to be applied.

Statement of reasons: The state should provide accountability standards no later than July 1st of the following school year so that campuses can plan accordingly before the beginning of the next school year.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for the modification of the current accountability system to increase the weight of the community-based measures for district and campus ratings.

Statement of reasons: We agree with the proposed resolution to allow campuses a better rating.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for the availability of state assessments in a student's home language through secondary for recent immigrants and students in dual-language programs.

Statement of reasons: Students who are recent immigrants (1-3) years should have the opportunity to test in their native language so that students can be successful. Additionally, linguistic supports should be extended for these recent immigrant testers.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for the official state definition and tracking of long-term English language learners.

Statement of reasons: We are in agreement to continue to track all English language learners.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for legislation that would allow school districts flexibility in the use of Technology and instructional Materials Allotment funds to support digital transformation.

Statement of reasons:

The use of technology and instructional allotment funds to support digital technology platforms provides students with opportunities to have instructional materials accessible for varied differentiated instruction for extended learning during emergency school closures or remote conferencing instructional accessibility. This flexibility would allow for instructional opportunities to expand far beyond the four walls of a classroom. Technology platforms permit districts mitigating staff shortages to continue with uninterrupted instruction. In addition, it facilitates professional development to a larger educator audience.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for public internet and Wi-Fi throughout the community.

Statement of reasons:

During school closures, many students had limited or no access at all to internet services. Students living in rural areas were forced to travel to the nearest District Wi-Fi hotspots, which were school buses doubling as mobile internet providers. These buses were then deployed throughout both rural areas and many areas of the city that were affected. Providing students with continuous access to internet service throughout our community provides them better opportunities to learn via remote learning or with hybrid instructional resources throughout the school year.

I hereby certify that the above-proposed resolution was approved by our board on June 7, 2022
(Date of meeting)

Board president's signature _____

Name of school district United Independent School District

County-district number

240903

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Proposed resolution: TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to require that the State Board of Education streamline the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Limiting standards for each subject at each grade level to what can be taught prior to state-mandated tests within the given school year.

Statement of reasons:

Limiting standards for each subject at each grade level will allow districts to create and design and design scope and sequences that focus on instructional quality versus quantity. This allows teachers time to focus on small-groups and provide differentiated instruction to better meet the needs of their students. Time will also permit teachers to focus on the reinforcement of essential skills that students lost during the pandemic and school closures.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for legislation that adequately funds the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) to ensure districts are able to meet increasing costs and adequately fund required materials adoptions. Legislation also should be explored that would serve to tie funding under IMA to the State Board of Education proclamations that are issued. Finally, the statute governing IMA should be revised to include an element of permanency as the current language leaves funding to the whim of each legislative session.

Statement of reasons:

School districts are encountering difficulty funding student workbooks and materials for the upcoming school year due to shortage of funds. These shortages have forced the prioritization of grade levels when ordering textbooks and materials.

Remote learning requires that textbooks and workbooks be sent home with students during school closures. As a result, districts have experienced an increase in losses of textbooks and materials.

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Proposed resolution: TASB calls upon the commissioner of education, State Board of Education, and Texas Education Agency to collaborate with public education stakeholders when drafting legislation and rule to enact policy that is in the best interest of students and schools.

Statement of reasons: House Bill 4545 is a prime example of why this stakeholder collaboration is critical for public education entities to plan for the successful implementation of accelerated instruction. Schools did not have the appropriate amount of planning time to provide teachers with instructional tools or professional development to implement all the requirements for HB 4545. If collaboration had existed, the legislation would have taken into account the time needed to create the systems to implement, monitor, and ensure students' success in closing or narrowing instructional gaps.

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Proposed resolution: TASB opposes adding measures or initiatives that would designate the use of Foundation School Program funding for mandated programs thereby lessening local discretionary funding per pupil.

Statement of reasons: House Bill 3 mandates that all Kinder, First, Second and Third Grade teachers are trained in the Reading and Math Academies, however, the cost of training teachers was not funded by this legislature. Given the enormous instructional gaps caused by the pandemic, districts must use funding that was allocated for closing these gaps to pay for the professional development sessions under HB3.

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Proposed resolution: TASB advocates for an equitable educational environment for Texas students and supports an exemplary education that values diversity of race, culture, natural heritage, gender, learning ability, and socioeconomic background in an environment that is equitable for all students and free of stereotypical expectations to ensure both a physically and mentally safe environment.

Statement of reasons: Adequate funding needs to be provided for districts to provide a more equitable environment for all.

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