

2008 Legislative Advisory Council Priority Statements (As amended by the LAC on May 3, 2008)

Salary & Benefits (combined with Teacher Shortages)

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.

Adequacy

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

Students – Career & Technology Education Programs

TASB supports increased funding for CTE courses; opportunities that allow all students to graduate “college or workforce ready” which includes: expanding the 4x4 curriculum to encompass career and technology (CTE) courses beginning in middle school; state funding for state certification exams; and funding of multi-district cooperatives at local option to provide students with CTE opportunities.

Technology

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

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, permits the addition of new value growth to district revenues allows school districts to fully capture the benefit of increasing local property values, addresses inflationary pressures and recognizes communities' unique challenges arising from differences in student populations.

Pre-K School Finance

TASB supports [additional state funding to broaden] educational opportunities for Texas students through an expanded pre-kindergarten program at local district option, including funding for expanded eligibility or a full class day.

2008 Legislative Advisory Council Priority Statements (As amended by the LAC on May 3, 2008)

Dropout Rates

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

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.

Vouchers

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

Facilities Funding (Instructional Facilities Allotment, Existing Debt Allotment)

TASB shall support legislation that would increase [and guarantee](#) equalized facilities funding for both the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and Existing Debt Allotment (EDA), as well as legislation that would automatically ~~update~~ [roll forward](#) the EDA each biennium for all bonded debt not covered by IFA.

Alignment of the State and Federal Accountability Systems

TASB supports a single, less complex accountability system that rewards [individual](#) student progress, reduces state testing, and implements constructive measures before sanctions.