

Texas Association of Secondary School Principals

81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION



2008-2009

TASSP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals supports legislation that places students in the forefront of the education process while empowering school leaders to provide quality education by:

Priority 1: Improving Resources and the School Environment for Students

- All students should be able to experience success in a campus culture that sets high expectations, promotes learning and provides intellectual stimulation
- All students should be able to learn in a school setting that acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of students, staff, parents and community members
- All students should be able to learn in a school setting that ensures quality, flexible instructional programs and services to meet individual needs
- All students should have access to current technology to facilitate learning and develop skills necessary for post-secondary achievement

Priority 2: Ensuring Safe Schools for all Students

- All students are entitled to laws that protect their right to learn in a safe school environment
- School leaders must be provided appropriate resources to ensure safe schools for all students at the campus, district and community level

Priority 3: Affirming the Public School as the Foundation of a Free Democratic Society and the Provider of Educational Opportunities for Texas Students

- All students will be provided the opportunity to learn in a student-focused setting that promotes multicultural acceptance, gender sensitivity and ethnic appreciation
- All students will be provided the opportunity to participate in educational or extra-curricular programs that fulfill academic, developmental, social, emotional and cultural needs

- A high priority will be placed on developing and implementing multiple and varied processes of assessment aligned with federal guidelines, that are non-discriminatory and consider diverse abilities and cultural backgrounds of students

Priority 4: Addressing the Crisis in Texas Concerning the Recruitment and Retention of Certified/Qualified Teachers and Administrators

- Educators should be provided appropriate time, funding, resources and professional development to be effective
- Educators should be provided the opportunity to share in the facilitation of sound, research-based techniques of classroom management, instructional strategies, curriculum development and alignment to ensure an environment conducive to teaching and learning
- Educators should be provided the opportunity to work in a productive environment that includes mentoring and supports life-long learning and goal attainment
- Compensation and health benefits should be provided to educators to encourage them to remain in the profession as productive and experienced contributors

Priority 5: Recognizing the Principal as the Instructional Leader and Lead Decision-Maker of the Campus

- Campus leaders must have the authority for decisions involving personnel assignment and evaluation, campus budgets, discipline, curriculum design and implementation and site-based planning
- Campus leaders must have community and state support to maintain continuity and comprehensive programs that test school efficacy over time.

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals has a long history of providing educational opportunities for students, conducting professional development training for principals and assistant principals and creating a network that allows professional educators the opportunity to work collaboratively on key educational issues—all aimed toward the improvement of the educational system in Texas. TASSP is a non-profit association that sponsors both the Texas Association of Student Councils and the Texas Association of Future Educators, effectively broadening its base to affect the lives of thousands of students and teachers.

Because of the complexity and accountability of the job of the school administrator, TASSP historically has supported legislation that strengthens the principal as the instructional leader and campus-level decision-maker. TASSP has consistently encouraged lawmakers

to adopt legislation to ensure Texas students of a safe and orderly learning environment.

The mission of TASSP is to serve the students and principals in Texas by supporting a sound student and principal-based legislative agenda. Throughout the 81st legislative session, TASSP will be working collaboratively with other educational associations and legislators to impact teacher recruitment and retention.

The Legislative Process:

In preparation for the 81st legislative session, in October 2008 the TASSP staff conducted a training seminar for members of the TASSP Legislative Committee and began formulating the TASSP Legislative Platform. TASSP members discussed legislative issues at the TASSP Summer Workshop, the TASSP Fall Summits and at regional meetings throughout the state.



The 2008-2009 TASSP Legislative Committee

Chair: Nelson Coulter, Region 13, Hendrickson High School, Pflugerville

Vice Chair: Kent Lemons, Region 9, Holliday High School

- 1 Jeroladette Centilli, United High School, Laredo
- 2 Carla Rosa-Villareal, Grant Middle School, Corpus Christi
- 3 Madalyn Maresh, Meadie Pumphrey Jr. High School, Edna
- 4 Morris Gurnell, North Shore Sr. High School, Houston
- 5 Stuart Kieschnick, Nederland ISD
- 6 Isaac Hernandez, Rudder High School, Bryan
- 7 Onella Brown, Dogan Middle School, Tyler
- 8 Bill Harp, Pleasant Grove High School, Texarkana
- 10 Sarah Watkins, Maurine Cain Middle School, Rockwall
- 11 Sheryl Preston, Aledo High School
- 12 Keri Thoele, Groesbeck High School
- 14 Clay Richerson, Stamford High School
- 15 Susan Sharp, Winters High School
- 16 John Jones, Lazbuddie School
- 17 Wayne Morren, Floydada High School
- 18 Rene Flores, Midland Freshman High School
- 19 Steve Troxel, William D. Slider Middle School, El Paso
- 20 Kathryn Korelich, Judson Alternative School, Converse

TASSP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

B.J. Paris, Principal
Canyon Vista Middle School
8455 Spicewood Springs Rd.
Round Rock, TX 78759
512-464-8100
barbara_paris@roundrockisd.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Benita Ashford, Principal
Anderson Middle School
3400 Garden Lane
Dallas, TX 75215
972-925-7900
bashford@dallasisd.org

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Ralph Funk, Principal
Jersey Village High School
7600 Solomon St.
Houston, TX 77040
713-896-3442
ralph.funk@cfisd.net

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Manny Lunoff, Principal
Hutto High School
P.O. Box 430
Hutto, TX 78634
512-759-4700
manny.lunoff@hutto.txed.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Steve Williams, Principal
Randall High School
5800 Attebury Rd.
Amarillo, TX 79118
806-677-2333
swill@canyonisd.net

STATE COORDINATOR

Dr. David Ellis, Principal
Artie L. Henry Middle School
100 N. Vista Ridge Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512-435-4800
david.ellis@leanderisd.org

ASSISTANT STATE COORDINATOR

Gail Gregg, Principal
Cooper High School
3639 Sayles Blvd.
Abilene, TX 79605
325-691-1000
gail.gregg@abileneisd.org

TASSP Board Policy:

All TASSP policies are created by the TASSP Board of Directors. The board is made up of elected practitioners, principals and assistant principals from each of the twenty TASSP regions. TASSP policy is driven by the mission statement and goals adopted by the Board.

The TASSP mission is to provide proactive leadership to systematically change schools into learning communities in which all students and other participants achieve their full potential as lifelong learners in a diverse and changing society.

TASSP Goals:

- Confront the reality of and strategies for systemic change.
- To provide a framework to radically change curriculum and instruction to meet real world needs.
- Equip professionals with knowledge and skills needed to provide leadership for schools of the 21st century.
- Exert a strong political presence in all matters affecting secondary education.
- Enhance collegial support systems.
- Foster and support student leadership opportunities.
- Develop and maintain a full range of membership services.

TASSP Legislative Staff:

Archie E. McAfee, Executive Director
Tom Leyden, Associate Executive Director/Director of
Governmental Relations
Cynthia Kirby, Director of High School Services
Patti Lyle Johnson, Director of Middle Level School Services
Julian Shaddix, TASSP Legislative Consultant

Texas Association of Secondary School Principals
1833 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741
(512) 443-2100 • Fax: (512) 442-3343 • www.tassp.org

Resources:

To access Texas Legislature on-line: www.capitol.state.tx.us

To access TASSP Legislative Update: www.tassp.org then click on News and Legislative Updates (left scroll bar). On the next screen, click on TASSP Legislative Update (at the top menu bar).