
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals



87TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

STATE-WIDE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
2020-2021



TASSP STATE-WIDE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals promotes a statewide legislative platform that places students in the forefront of the educational process by empowering school leaders to:

Ensure a quality education for all students

- All students are provided with an education that prepares them to be college, career or military ready.
- All students engage in authentic and relevant learning experiences in a healthy, safe, and secure environment.
- All students are prepared to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Address Educator Preparation, Shortages and Retention

- Teacher preparation programs are research-based and promote best instructional practices.
- Educators are provided with sustained on-the-job training and coaching to promote teacher growth.
- Incentives, compensation and health benefits are provided to address teacher shortages and promote teacher retention.

Support Sustainable and Equitable Funding for Public Education

- State school funding is reflective of the value placed on the academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs of all Texas students.
- State school funds are best invested in strengthening public schools for all Texas students.
- The current needs and demographics of individual schools are considered in determining school funding.
- Local school districts are supported with state funding that ensures the implementation and sustainability of legislation.

Support an Authentic Accountability for Students and Schools

- School accountability systems that look beyond high-stakes standardized testing.

TASSP Vision

To offer Texas principals and assistant principals a forum to explore the best practices in school administration with the ultimate goal of helping facilitate student learning. It is the intent of the organization that we honor our motto, “Above All, Students First,” in all that we do.

Beliefs

- We believe that all people are created inherently good with noble purpose that transcends self.
- We believe that all human beings have the right and ability to learn and own their learning.
- We believe that each individual is a voice expressed through being, action and/or words.
- We believe that individuals make choices for which they are accountable.
- We believe that serving others is a moral obligation to add value to every individual and to improve the greater good.
- We believe that inspirational leaders are courageous and seek the truth to empower others.
- We believe that unity creates progress towards a common vision.

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The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals



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.

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.

Because of the complexity and accountability of the job of the school administrator, TASSP historically has supported a state-wide legislative platform that promotes the principal as the instructional leader and campus-level decision-maker.

Because principals are always seeking high-quality teachers, TASSP will be working collaboratively with Texas educational associations and teacher preparation programs on strategies that positively impact recruiting and retaining of high-quality teachers.

In preparation for the 87th State of Texas Legislative Session, in November 2020, Archie McAfee, Executive Director, and Cindy Jackson, Associate Executive Director and Director of Government Relations, conducted a virtual training seminar for members of the TASSP Legislative Committee, which included a presentation by Michelle Smith, Ph.D., Vice-President of Policy and Advocacy for Raise Your Hand Texas. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited entrance to the Capitol, the committee members were not able to attend a committee hearing at the Capitol. On January 14, 2021, Dr. Terri Benson, Chair of the TASSP Legislative Committee, facilitated the review and revision process for formulating the TASSP State-wide Legislative Platform. At the TASSP Summer Workshop and at the spring 2021 regional meetings throughout the state, TASSP will be giving updates from the legislative session. Members are encouraged to use the Resources and the log of education-related bills posted on the TASSP website to stay current on legislative action.

Resources:

To access and set up a personal account, go to Texas Legislature on-line: www.capitol.state.tx.us

To access TASSP Legislative Update: go to www.tassp.org, click on Resources, and Legislative Updates.

The 2020-2021 TASSP Legislative Committee

Chair: Dr. Terri Benson, Principal, Academy for Science and Health Professions, Conroe

Vice Chair: Alison Smith, Principal, Midway High School, Waco

Gilbert Galvan, Principal, Veterans Mem. High School, San Benito

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Sandy Fellers, Principal, Goliad Middle School

Virgil Maddox, Principal, Kahla Middle School, Houston

Aimee Hebert, Asst Prin, Central Middle School, Nederland

Nathan Heflin, Principal, Ore City High School

Tim Lambert, Principal, Texas Middle School, Texarkana

Starla Sanders, Principal, Jacksboro High School

Jae Gaskill, Principal, McKinney North High School

Travis Moore, Principal, Coble Middle School, Arlington

Patrick Peabody, Asst Prin, Vista Ridge High School, Cedar Park

William Paul, Principal, Breckenridge High School

Dr. Scott Snyder, Principal, San Saba High School

Stephen Vanderpool, Principal, Groom School

Heath Simpson, Principal, Frenship 9th Grade Ctr, Wolfforth

Matt Turney, Principal, Stanton High School

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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.

TASSP Mission

The mission of TASSP is to ensure that campus administrators serve as courageous transformative leaders and a unifying voice for all learners, through a dynamic network distinguished by:

- Sharp focus on professional development;
- Proactive mindset of agility, innovation, and decisiveness; and
- Unrelenting commitment to student success.

Objectives

Principals will...

1. model, encourage, and support purposeful innovation in the interest of student success.
2. make informed decisions with a sharp focus on comprehensive data.
3. cultivate and empower leaders.
4. foster a culture of inclusiveness and unity.

Strategies

1. We will influence, guide and support the emerging role of the principal.
2. We will promote the value of the individual while creating a unifying culture to harness the power of diversity and the energy of education.
3. We will position ourselves as visionary leaders focused on relevant service, support and professional development.

TASSP Staff

Archie E. McAfee, Executive Director

Cindy Jackson, Associate Executive Director, Professional Development, Governmental Relations & High School Services

Billy Pringle, Associate Executive Director, Middle-Level Services & Business Operations