Texas Association of Secondary School Principals

84th Legislative Session
State-wide Policy Program

2014-2015
The Texas Association of Secondary School Principals supports a state-wide policy program that places students in the forefront of the educational process while empowering school leaders to provide quality education by:

Improving Resources and the School Environment for Students
- All students will learn in a school setting that acknowledges and celebrates success and improvement of teaching and learning.
- All students will learn in a school setting that ensures quality appropriate instructional programs and services that meet individual needs.
- All schools will provide adequate resources to ensure career and college readiness for each student.

Ensuring Safe Schools for All Students & Stakeholders
- 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 the physical and emotional safety of all students at the campus and district levels.
- Educators must be provided with positive measures to support and promote a safe school environment at the campus, district, and community levels.

Affirming the Public School as the Foundation of a Free Democratic Society and the Provider of Educational Services for Texas Students
- All students will be provided the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, through multiple and varied processes of assessment aligned with federal and state guidelines, which are non-discriminatory and consider diverse abilities and cultural backgrounds of all students.

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.

Recognizing the Principal as the Leader of the Campus
- Campus leaders must have the authority for decisions involving personnel assignment and evaluation, campus budgets, discipline, instructional 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 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 a state-wide policy program that strengthens the principal as the instructional leader and campus-level decision-maker.

TASSP has consistently maintained a state-wide policy program that ensures Texas students 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 program. Throughout the 84th legislative session, TASSP will be working collaboratively with other educational associations to promote activities that positively impact teacher recruitment and retention.

In preparation for the 84th legislative session, in October 2014, the TASSP staff conducted a training seminar for members of the TASSP Legislative Committee and began formulating the TASSP state-wide policy program. TASSP members received a legislative report at the TASSP Summer Workshop, the TASSP Fall Summits and at regional meetings throughout the state.

The 2014-2015 TASSP Legislative Committee

Chair: Christopher Coy, Rouse HS, Leander, Region 13
Vice-Chair: Susan Moore, Special Programs Ctr, Justin, Region 11

Region 1. Cynthia Wilson, Sharyland HS, Mission
Region 2. Les Dragon, Santa Gertrudis Acad HS, Kingsville
Region 3. Paul Fleener, Edna JHS
Region 4. Tammy Edwards, Ridge Point HS, Missouri City
Region 5. Lisa Chambers, Memorial 9th Grd Acad, Port Arthur
Region 6. Gwen Elder, A&M Consolidated HS, College Station
Region 7. Vanessa McFarland, John Tyler HS, Tyler
Region 8. Neilan Hensley, DeKalb HS
Region 9. Tim West, Prairie Valley HS, Nocona
Region 10. Chandra Barnett, JL Long MS, Dallas
Region 12. Grady Fulbright, Bruceville-Eddy HS, Eddy
Region 14. David Acevedo, Merkel MS
Region 15. David O’Dell, Robert Lee HS, Robert Lee
Region 16. Steve Williams, Randall HS, Amarillo
Region 17. Jim Burke, Frenship HS, Wolfforth
Region 18. Panchi Scown, Alpine HS
Region 19. Derrick Brown, El Dorado HS, El Paso
Region 20. Scott McKenzie, Rayburn MS, San Antonio
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 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 Staff:

Archie E. McAfee, Executive Director
Tom Leyden, Associate Executive Director
Cynthia Kirby, Director of Professional Development

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 the Resources tab and scroll down to Legislative Updates.

Adopted by TASSP Board of Directors (November 17, 2014)