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# Texas Association of Secondary School Principals



## 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

State-Wide Legislative Platform

2024-2025



# TASSP STATE-WIDE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

## 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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### **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.

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:

### **Support Sustainable and Equitable Funding for Public Education**

- Determine adequate and equitable school funding based on the needs of all students.
- All schools are adequately supported with state funding to ensure long-term sustainability.

### **Ensure a Safe and Secure Environment for all Students and Staff**

- Schools receive equitable and adequate resources and funding where all students and staff are valued in a safe, healthy and productive learning environment.
- Schools operate under local autonomy to utilize resources, as well as maintain and enhance the safe and secure environment

### **Ensure a Quality and Equitable Education for all Students**

- All students receive an education that equips them for post-secondary success.
- All students participate in research-based and student-centered learning experiences within a healthy, safe and dynamic environment.
- All students are equipped to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

### **Address Educator Preparation, Shortages, and Retention**

- Attract and retain highly qualified professionals by equipping schools to provide equitable compensation, comprehensive health benefits, and competitive incentives.
- Equip schools to address teacher loss through provision of resources and support.
- Support teacher preparation programs to foster growth and long-term success in the profession.

### **Support Authentic Accountability for Students and Schools**

- School accountability systems are comprehensive and look beyond high stakes standardized testing.

### **TASSP 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.

# THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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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 89th State of Texas Legislative Session, in December 2024, Archie E. McAfee, Executive Director, and Billy Pringle, Ed.D., Deputy Director of Government Relations, conducted an in-person training for members of the TASSP Legislative Committee, which included a presentation by Bob Popinski, Senior Director of Policy for Raise Your Hand Texas. Due to neither the House, nor Senate scheduling an education related committee meeting during the month of December at the Capitol, the committee met to develop the TASSP State-Wide Legislative Platform. On December 9 & 10, 2024, Paul Fleener, 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 2025 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](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)  
To access TASSP Legislative Update: go to [www.tassp.org](http://www.tassp.org), click on Resources, and Legislative Updates.

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## The 2024-2025 TASSP Legislative Committee

**Chair: Paul Fleener, Principal, El Campo HS, Region 3**

**Vice Chair: Terri Benson, Principal, Caney Creek HS, Region 6**

JoRhon Calhoun, Assoc. Principal, North Shore Sr HS,  
Region 4

Rosana Arizola, Principal, United MS, Region 1

Katy Hicks, Principal, Buna Jr. HS, Region 5

Robert Webb, Principal, Andrews HS, Region 18

Elyse Peterson, Principal, Ore City MS, Region 7

Samuel Perry, Principal, Graham JHS, Region 9

Matthew Russell, Principal, Allen HS, Region 10

Jodi Carter, Principal, Rockport-Fulton HS, Region 2

Amber Loubiere, Assistant Principal, Copperas Cove HS,  
Region 12

Ryan Wilkes, Principal, Wimberly HS, Region 13

Joshua Ham, Principal, San Saba HS, Region 15

Stephen Vanderpool, Principal, Loraine ISD, Region 16

Nate Driver, Principal, Azle HS, Region 11

Reagan Berry, Principal, Wylie HS, Region 14

Jerry Estrada, Principal, Idalou HS, Region 17

Justin Arsenault, Principal, New Boston MS, Region 8

Richard Salcido, Principal, Ann Garcia Enriquez MS,  
Region 19

Jennifer Cooper, Principal, Nimitz MS, Region 20

# THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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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

Billy Pringle, Ed.D., Deputy Director, Business Operations, Prof. Dev., Government Relations & HS Services

Leti Menchaca, Associate Executive Director: Middle Level Services and Corporate Partnership Services