

## ***Make Education a Priority Statements of Support***

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) supports and applauds Aledo ISD's initiative to encourage the Texas Legislature to make school funding a priority next session. This initiative compliments TASA's grassroots 2011 Initiative. TASA is a statewide professional organization representing superintendents and other education leaders whose mission is to promote, provide, and develop leadership that champions educational excellence.

***Johnny L. Veselka Executive Director of Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)***

www.tasanet.org and TASA Grassroots 2011

We commend the Aledo ISD Board for its efforts in raising awareness about issues affecting school districts across the state. Their leadership has reminded us all that, even in the face of an unprecedented state budget deficit, we must make education our top priority. The TASB organization supports the *Make Education a Priority* letter campaign and looks forward to working with Aledo ISD to broaden the campaign's reach.

***Jackie Lain Associate Executive Director of TASB Governmental Relations***

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www.tasb.org and www.gr.tasb.org

When we looked into the *Make Education a Priority* letter campaign initiative, we immediately saw the potential. The Equity Center extends our podcast/website resource to make sure every superintendent and school board trustee is aware of the campaign's objectives and resolution. We believe in this important initiative. This can be very powerful when supported by our school districts. Let's make education a priority.

***Dr. Wayne Pierce Executive Director of the Equity Center***

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The Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools (TAMS) is happy to support the *Make Education a Priority Campaign* encouraging the Texas Legislature to make school funding a priority in their upcoming legislative session. TAMS is an organization that exists to ensure that mid-size school districts continue to receive appropriate funding via the mid-size formula adjustment – a formula adjustment that has been in place for years to offset the “economy of scale” issues mid-size schools face each year. As such, we applaud the efforts of this campaign and strongly encourage the Texas Legislature to not only make education a priority, but to also fix a school funding system that is broken - by ensuring a more adequate and equitable system that provides local school districts more meaningful discretion while preserving local fund balances without penalty.

***The Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools (TAMS)***

***Dr. Darrell G. Floyd TAMS Past President and Superintendent of Schools, Stephenville ISD***

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Texas Association of Community Schools is very proud to join in support of the "Make Education a Priority" campaign. Congratulations to the Aledo ISD school board for its positive efforts to make school funding the priority for the 82nd Legislative Session.

***Ken McCraw Executive Director of Texas Association of Community Schools***

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The Texas Rural Education Association extends their support for the “Make Education a Priority” campaign in the most significant possible way; by adopting the actual *Resolution of Acknowledgment – Make Education a Priority*. Adopted September 15, 2010

***The Texas Rural Education Association***

***Dr. James Cowley, Sunnyvale ISD, President***

The Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards extends their support for the "Make Education a Priority" campaign in the most significant possible way: by adopting the actual *Resolution of Acknowledgment – Make Education a Priority*. The Association's officers and directors represent 15 Texas School Districts.  
Adopted October 1, 2010

**Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards**  
**President Kathy Green, La Porte ISD**  
GCSchoolBoards@aol.com

I applaud the leadership from the Aledo ISD school board dedicated to making education a priority. "Make Education a Priority" is an Aledo ISD Board of Trustee adopted campaign, a grassroots effort that is growing into a statewide initiative.

**Joe F. Smith – TexasISD.com**  
www.texasisd.com

Public education advocacy has been a passion of mine for years. During my term as TASB President, I urged trustees and the rest of the education community to communicate with their business partners, communities, and legislators not only to inform them about challenges and concerns, but also to promote the good news about public schools. I was very excited when I first read about the *Make Education a Priority* campaign on Facebook. The education community must unite to ensure that our voices are heard during the next legislative session. Please take advantage of all the tools TASB GR provides and support the *Make Education a Priority* initiative by passing a board resolution and sharing it with your elected officials. Together we can make a difference!

**Sarah Winkler, Immediate Past President**  
**Texas Association of School Boards**

The 115,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) is proud to convey its support of the 'Make Education a Priority' campaign. ATPE members strongly believe that parental, business and community collaboration is the defining element of a quality public education system. This grassroots initiative is the type of respectful, unified advocacy that brings educators and the public together so we may express our highest priority to our elected leaders. ATPE encourages all of our members and all public educators across the state of Texas to support the 'Make Education a Priority' campaign.

**Doug Rogers, Executive Director**  
**Association of Texas Professional Educators**  
www.atpe.org

The Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA) extends its support to the Make Education a Priority Campaign. TASPA is a professional association representing Texas public school human resources (HR) administrators and support staff whose mission is to develop quality leadership in human resource services in order to impact and enhance public education, thereby supporting student success. On behalf of the TASPA Executive Board and its membership, we encourage legislators to make school funding a priority in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session.

**Melva V. Cárdenas, Executive Director**  
**Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators**  
www.taspa.org

The Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees extends their support for the "Make Education a Priority" campaign in the most significant possible way: by adopting the actual *Resolution of Acknowledgment – Make Education a Priority*. The Association's officers and directors adopted this important resolution on January 18, 2011.

**Angie Chesnut, President**  
**Harris County Department of Education, Board of Trustees**

The Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA) extends their support for the “Make Education a Priority” campaign in the most significant possible way: by adopting the message within the *Resolution of Acknowledgment – Make Education a Priority*. The Association’s officers and members adopted this important resolution on January 22, 2011 during their MASBA State Conference, San Antonio Texas.

***Manuel Rodriguez, President  
Mexican American School Board Association***

The Hidalgo County Chapter of Texas Democratic Women is honored to submit enthusiastic support to Make Education a Priority campaign. Due to major budget challenges during this 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, EDUCATION must be on top of the agenda. Education is the key if we are to fortify our children’s future and the future of Texas.

***Maria G. Leal, President  
Hidalgo County Chapter of Texas Democratic Women  
texasdemocraticwomen.com***

The Texas Computer Education Association encourages the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas State Legislature to make school funding a priority in this legislative session. The TCEA membership fully supports the “Make Education a Priority” campaign. We all have an obligation as Texas citizens to give every child in this state the opportunity to prepare themselves to step out on to the global stage and compete. With committed educators in the classroom, a robust and relevant curriculum, and the right technology, students will acquire the skills necessary to become useful and productive citizens. Funding is the glue that binds these ingredients together. “Make Education a Priority” by funding the future of Texas!

***Candace Threadgill, President  
Texas Computer Education Association  
www.tcea.org***

A Career in Teaching - Educator Preparation Program and the Educational Leadership & Development Program support Aledo ISD's Board of Directors in its campaign for making public education a priority. There are 5 million students enrolled in Texas schools with an expected 160,000 new students during the 2011-2012 academic school year. State Legislators need to tap into the Rainy Day Fund (\$9 billion) and Gov Perry needs to sign for the release of \$885 million from the US Dept of Education already earmarked for Texas public schools. Together we can make education a priority and I believe the Texas legislature will support our efforts!

***Adrian Fernandez, Program Director  
A Career in Teaching - Educator Preparation Program and  
Educational Leadership & Development Program  
CareerInTeaching@aol.com***

The Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) supports the *Make Education a Priority* initiative to encourage the Texas Legislature to make school funding a priority during the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative session. TSPRA membership is comprised of communications/public information administrators, education foundation directors and board members, and electronic media specialists. We are a professional organization whose members are dedicated to improving public education in Texas by promoting effective public relations practices, providing professional development for its members, and improving communication between Texans and their public schools.

***Linsae Snider, Executive Director,  
Texas School Public Relations Association  
www.tspra.org, 512.474.9107***

