



Advocacy Update

Arlington Council of PTAs
December 2018



- The November 6th elections resulted in several new elected officials representing constituents in Arlington/AISD:

Texas U.S. Representatives

- Congressional District 6--Congressman Ron Wright*
- Congressional District 33--Congressman Marc Veasey (i)

Texas State Senators

- Texas State Senate District 9--Senator Kelly Hancock (i)
- Texas State Senate District 10--Senator Beverly Powell*
- Texas State Senate District 22--Senator Brian Birdwell

Texas State Representatives

- Texas State House District 92--Representative Jonathan Stickland (i)
- Texas State House District 93--Representative Matt Krause (i)
- Texas State House District 94--Representative Tony Tinderholt (i)
- Texas State House District 95--Representative Nicole Collier (i)
- Texas State House District 96--Representative William 'Bill' Zedler (i)
- Texas State House District 101--Representative Chris Turner (i)

Texas State Board of Education Members

- Texas State SBOE District 11--Ms. Patricia Hardy (i)
- Texas State SBOE District 13--Ms. Aicha Davis*

(i) – incumbent, * - newly elected

- The Arlington Council of PTAs is making plans to attend Texas PTA Rally Day on February 25th in Austin. We encourage all local PTAs to send representatives. Please indicate how many reps you will be bringing so that we can arrange for transportation, food, shirts, and more. Register your local PTA's interest at <https://goo.gl/forms/xZiFSi5GktvJiLZZ2> by December 14th.
- December's "Zero Hero" of the month is... Gerald Sims from Duff Elementary School! Mr. Sims is known throughout AISD as "The Crossing Guard with all the hats", but the Duff community knows him for so much more. In addition to making this West Arlington neighborhood a safe place to walk to school, he routinely ensures that streets, sidewalks, and entrances are welcoming to all who visit. He and his wife Vicki attend PTA events, bring treats to the staff, and cheer on students at Mustang sporting events year-round. The campus has declared this December 7th as "Mr. Sims Hat Day" and encourages students, teachers, and staff to wear their favorite hat in his honor. Thank you for all that you do, Mr. Sims!
- The Texas PTA Legislative priorities for the 86th legislative session are here! Check the reverse for more information.
- For questions, please contact Jeannie Deakyne, Arlington Council of PTAs Advocacy Chair, at jpdeakyne@hotmail.com.



TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM REFORM

Pursue an adequate and equitable solution for school funding that maintains accountability and responsibility for educating the whole child and includes funding for enrollment growth.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Support increased funding for special education services sufficient to address the requirements of the federal government's corrective action, including teacher training, student evaluation, and increased student services.

LITERACY BY 3RD GRADE

Support programs that ensure all 3rd grade students are reading and writing on grade-level, including full-day Pre-K funding that prioritizes students in at-risk environments.

HEALTH & SAFETY

SCHOOL SAFETY

Pursue comprehensive school safety legislation, including policies to fund the hardening of school facilities and improve access and utilization of Texas School Safety Center (TSSC) professional development and comprehensive safety and security plans.

CYBERBULLYING

Support policies to strengthen anti-cyberbullying laws.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Improve school safety by developing and funding a comprehensive plan of programs and services specifically designed to help students be mentally strong and prepared to cope with personal challenges, and systems to identify and provide services to students in need of mental health intervention.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Support policies that reduce childhood obesity through education, healthy food choices, and physical activity.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Support comprehensive reform of the Juvenile Justice system, increasing the age of adult criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, and policies that reduce the school-to-prison pipeline.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

Support legislation requiring school districts to report the number of unvaccinated students in each school so families can make the safest school-placement decision for medically vulnerable children.

T21, RAISE THE AGE TO 21 FOR TOBACCO PURCHASES

Support legislation to limit youth access to tobacco products — including e-cigarettes and vaping/juuling devices — through social sources such as older high school students.

MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Advocate for an accountability system that more broadly reviews school performance and includes a family engagement component.

STATE ASSESSMENT

Advocate for reduced emphasis on state-mandated testing, focusing on grades 3-8, monitor changes to STAAR for high school students, and encourage limits on benchmark testing for all tested grades.

INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEES

Advocate for the continuation of Individual Graduation Committees with authority to allow students to graduate when they have failed no more than two end-of-course exams, but successfully completed all required curriculum.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KEEP PUBLIC DOLLARS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Demand policies that prevent taxpayer dollars from funding private schools through a voucher system that lacks transparency and educational accountability.

BE A VOICE FOR EVERY CHILD AT THE CAPITOL!

WE WANT YOU AT RALLY DAY

Monday, February 25 • Austin, Texas

Visit txpta.org/rally-day for more information.