



**Texas PTA has identified the following issues for focused and consistent advocacy efforts during the upcoming Texas Legislative Session. Priorities of Texas PTA are not limited to these listed below.**

### **Strengthen Child Passenger Restraint Laws**

Upgrade the current Child Occupant Protection Law governing the use of child safety seat devices to require children to be in booster seats from the time they outgrow a car seat until they are 57 inches tall or 8 years old.

**SB 61 by Zaffirini and HB 528 by Vaught**

### **Restrict Use of Cellular Technology by Teens While Driving a Motor Vehicle**

Restrict the use of wireless communications devices, including cellular phones, by youth under the age of 18 while operating a motor vehicle.

**SB 772 by Williams, HB 339 by Phillips, and HB 1649 by Menendez**

### **Support Healthy Lifestyles**

Promote the health, education and welfare of the whole child by addressing Healthy Lifestyles through increased physical education/activity, rigorous implementation of the existing Texas Public School Nutrition Policy as well as School Health Advisory Councils, support for comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs, and support for the arts.

**SB 282 by Nelson – grant program through TDA to provide nutrition education to children**

**SB 283 by Nelson – further clarifies the rules for school health advisories**

**SB 891 by Nelson – defines PE**

**SB 892 by Nelson – adds evaluation of coordinated school health program to school's campus improvement plan**

**HB 159 by Deshotel – unstructured activity requirements – minimum of 20'/day**

**HB 482 by Rodriguez – increase availability of fresh produce to low income families through grant program**

### **Expand sales tax holiday exempted items to include school supplies**

Expand the current sales tax holiday to include school supplies.

**HB 1801 by Bohac, HB 424 by Castro, and SB 144 by Ellis**

### **Secure Passage of a Smoke-Free Workplace Law**

Pass a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law to protect the health of Texas workers, especially our youth, from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

**HB 5 by Crownover and SB 544 by Ellis**

### **Reform Accountability System in Texas Public Schools**

Reform the current school accountability system to focus on what children know and are able to do, without overemphasis on one single test score, holding schools accountable for ensuring that all children succeed. The system must acknowledge the role of healthy lifestyles, the arts, music, literature, dance, drama, and visual arts as central to learning, key to the development of students and essential components of a comprehensive education.

## **Support Programs that Make Schools Safer**

Promote safe schools for students and staff through programs such as the Crime Stoppers Safe Schools Program and others.

**There are multiple bills to address bullying, harassment, assault, restrictions on proximity to schools of adult businesses, sex offender's homes, sales of alcohol, and a pilot program for a safe schools unit at DPS**

## **Improve Indoor Air Quality of School Buses**

Increase allocations to the Texas Clean School Bus Program from the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and other appropriate revenue sources to clean up the air our children breathe on school buses, by retrofitting middle-aged buses using advanced filter technology to clean up diesel exhaust.

## **Oppose Vouchers**

Oppose voucher systems or tuition credits for nonpublic school tuition and other education-related expenses, and require home schools and other nonpublic schools to meet the same educational standards as public schools.

**THE ASK – OPPOSE HB 41 BY CORTE, HB 716 BY RIDDLE, AND SB BY 183 WILLIAMS**

**THE ASK – SUPPORT SB 100 BY LUCIO - SB 100 creates staff development institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals regarding educating students with disabilities**

*Note: In order for Texas schools to be successful in their mission to educate all students regardless of socio-economic status, ability, and legal status, schools must be adequately funded. Texas PTA supports state funding for state-mandated programs and supports increasing the state's share of funding to local school districts.*

*Texas PTA serves as the voice for Texas children, maintaining the focus on their health, well-being, and educational opportunity.*