



## Serving Texas Public Schools

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The Honorable Dan Huberty  
House of Representatives  
Chairman, Public Education Committee  
1100 Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Huberty and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit responses for the Texas House interim charges. The Texas Association of Midsize Schools (TAMS) is an organization with broad geographic membership across Texas. We also have a narrow mission: the protection of midsize school districts (ADA 1,200-5,000). The midsize allotment (previously known as MS Adjustment) provides (on average) approximately \$1.1 million per TAMS member to help offset the diseconomy of scale that occurs as midsize districts implement the same robust course offerings as larger suburban and urban districts, with less staffing options and/or availability of strategic partnerships found in metropolitan areas of our great state. The 225 members of TAMS rely heavily on the MS Allotment to address staffing certification needs and ensure broad curriculum offerings in both core areas and CTE.

**Regarding Interim Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following: Interim Charge 1[A]: HB 3, which relates to public school finance and public education. Monitor the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) implementation of the bill, including the extensive rulemaking process and broad unintended consequence authority of the commissioner. Examine the pay raises districts have provided to staff and the various approaches adopted to differentiate these salary increases according to experience.**

The raise in the Basic Allotment from HB3 (86<sup>th</sup>) was/is much appreciated. The inclusion (late in the session) of Special Education in HB3 formulas was incredibly helpful to attempt to keep up with growing SPED population state-wide. Having the mid-size adjustment continue to adjust the special education student

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adjustment allowed our districts to continue to get appropriate funding for our special education students. It also illustrates how an “adjustment” for each student subpopulation (example-SPED, BI/ESL, CTE...etc.) is helpful to better position the state to allow dollars to flow to the student needs more directly, which was an overarching goal of HB3 and the manner in which the SM/MS adjustment was originally designed.

We additionally request consideration for increase in facility funding, utilization of current year values, insurance of state covering local loss due to tax compression and/or local option homestead exemption. TAMS members would hate to see the progress made in HB3 (86<sup>th</sup>) undone in the 87<sup>th</sup>.