



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[B]: HB 1842 (84R), HB 22 (85R), SB 1882 (85R), and HB 3906, which relate to public school accountability, assessment, interventions, and district-charter partnerships. Monitor the ongoing progress of the TEA's implementation and rulemaking of the A-F rating system, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), and public school sanctions and interventions.

TAMS members understand the need for meaningful standardized testing in order to determine where students stand academically. We furthermore believe that standardized testing should be limited to a reasonable amount such as the minimum amount required in order to meet Federal guidelines. Our greater concern lies in the current accountability system (A-F) which is predicated on annual growth standards during the time period of the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe the utilization and assignment of A-F during this unprecedented time will be reckless and inaccurate.

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