



Serving Texas Public Schools

Greg Gibson-Executive Director
P.O. Box Blanco TX 78606

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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 2: Determine if any barriers exist in providing a digital learning environment for all children, including an evaluation of the competitive marketplace for blended learning products and services. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment (TIMA) in providing districts the resources necessary to equip students with instructional materials and technology, including in the review all programs and initiatives funded by set asides from the TIMA.

TAMS districts are generally a blend of rural and/or suburban. The CV-19 pandemic, and subsequent demand for virtual learning, brought to light the vast disparities between various regions of the state and high-speed connectivity (in some cases any connectivity). TAMS members appreciate current efforts such as Operation Connectivity but will need additional support from the state to overcome this divide.

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Contact Greg:

210 865-6132

ggibson@midsizedschools.org