



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 3: Monitor the progress of the TEA's compliance with the Corrective Action Response required by the United States Department of Education, the implementation of the state's Special Education Strategic Plan, and the state's compliance with other federal requirements regarding special education, including maintenance of state financial support for special education. Recommend solutions to barriers the agency, school districts, students with disabilities, and parents face in accessing a free and appropriate public education and in meeting the milestones of the plan and any measures needed at the state level to ensure that students with disabilities are being located, fully evaluated, and appropriately identified for special education instruction and services.

TAMS members are ready to work collaboratively with state officials on corrective actions required by USDE for SPED. We are appreciative of the SPED funding through HB3 formula for SM/MS ISD's. This effort laid a good

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groundwork for our work moving ahead as state-wide SPED qualifications move from approximately 8.5% to more in line with national averages.