



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSTA Applauds Rep. Valinda Bolton's Bill to Limit Class-Size Waivers

Statement by Rita C. Haecker, president of the Texas State Teachers Association:

“Study after study shows that reducing class size in the early grades increases learning and better prepares students for success in later grades. Smaller class sizes also boost both student and teacher morale, making classrooms happier and healthier places to learn and teach. Smaller class sizes are particularly important in narrowing the achievement gaps that hit our state so hard. Reducing class size is one of the best strategies a state can adopt to give students a better chance of succeeding in school and in life.

“Texas law limits class size in kindergarten through fourth grade to a 22-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio. But the law allows the commissioner of education to grant too many class-size waivers to school districts. He has used this authority far too often, robbing too many Texas students and teachers of the many important benefits of smaller classes.

“So we’re pleased that state Rep. Valinda Bolton of Austin is introducing legislation to limit the commissioner’s ability to grant these waivers. With new leadership in the Texas House of Representatives that understands just how important our public schools are, we are confident that Rep. Bolton’s sensible bill will become law this session.”

The 65,000-member Texas State Teachers Association is the oldest education organization in the state. TSTA has been fighting for Texas public schools since 1880. It is affiliated with the 3.2 million-member National Education Association.

For more information about TSTA, go to <http://www.tsta.org/Pressroom/current/index.shtml>.

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