



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSTA NAMES NEW GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SPECIALIST FOR TEXAS SENATE

The state's oldest education organization begins the 81st Legislature's regular session with a full agenda and a new government relations specialist to work with the Texas Senate.

The 65,000-member Texas State Teachers Association continues to push for a new system of funding public schools that is both sufficient and flexible, for a new accountability system that accurately measures student performance and for additional state investment to ensure the long-term solvency of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

John M. Grey will be carrying that agenda to state senators and their staffs. A TSTA staff attorney for the past two years, Grey moves over to the association's Center for Public Affairs.

"John Grey has the experience and insight that will serve TSTA well in working with the Texas Senate. He knows the issues, and he knows how the legislative process works," association President Rita C. Haecker said. "This will be a critically important session for public school employees, and we're pleased to have several new allies at the Capitol as a result of the 2008 election."

Grey succeeds longtime government relations specialist Jack Kelly, who retired at the end of 2008. When Kelly began working for TSTA in August 1976, the average beginning teacher salary in Texas was \$6,000. By the end of last year, it had risen to \$40,000 – in no small part because of Kelly's three decades of work with state senators and their staffs.

In private practice and in his work for TSTA, Kelly's successor dealt with a wide array of legal issues affecting public schools and their employees. Grey also brings significant experience in state government to his new position, having worked for the Texas Legislative Council and for the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

Grey earned his law degree at Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas, where he was the editor in chief of the SMU Computer Law Review and Technology Journal, and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin.

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