



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TSTA Encourages School Districts to Take Advantage of President's Talk**

"TSTA applauds President Obama for encouraging children to take responsibility for their education and to stay in school," said Rita Haecker, the president of the 67,000-member Texas State Teachers Association.

"The dropout rates for Hispanic and African-American students in Texas are too high, and having the first African-American president talking about why school is important to their future will resonate with at-risk students, and his own achievements show that they can accomplish anything they want to if they work hard enough," said Haecker.

President Obama has repeatedly urged parents to take more responsibility for their children's performance in school. His message to schoolchildren Tuesday will follow up on that by emphasizing the importance of education and reminding students that they need to take responsibility, set goals and stay in school. The White House Web site, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), will post the president's remarks on Monday.

"We encourage every school district in the state to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity and honor the wishes of parents who want their children to watch and discuss the president's address. This is especially important for our many young Texans who are at high risk of dropping out of school," Haecker explained.

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