



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

316 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

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Contact: Clay Robison, TSTA Public Affairs  
512.476.5355, ext. 1233; clayr@tsta.org  
Cell: 512.535.8994

## **TSTA applauds Wendy Davis' "Great Start, Great Texas" plan**

The Texas State Teachers Association today applauded Senator Wendy Davis for making early childhood education a priority of her gubernatorial campaign.

"Parents and educators know that children who have the opportunity to learn and develop reading skills at an early age are much more likely to be successful academically," said TSTA President Rita Haecker. "We congratulate Senator Davis for putting forth plans to better prepare our children for success in college and the work force."

TSTA supports Senator Davis' proposals to expand half-day pre-kindergarten programs to full days for eligible, low-income children and to make it possible for additional children to enroll at reasonable, sliding-scale costs.

TSTA also supports Davis's plan to strengthen the foundation reading program for students in kindergarten through third grade. This will include additional professional development for teachers in reading comprehension instruction and the restoration of state funds to allow school districts to rehire teaching aides who specialize in helping children read. Along with pre-kindergarten, this program suffered serious cutbacks as a result of the 2011 school budget cuts.

"In sharp contrast to her opponent, Wendy Davis continues to offer specific plans to strengthen our classrooms and our children's future," Haecker said. "Greg Abbott continues to defend an inadequate and unfair school finance system, including \$5.4 billion in cuts to local school districts, while courting the support of people who want to take our tax dollars to privatize our neighborhood schools."

Earlier, Senator Davis laid out plans to encourage Texas' best students to become teachers and to boost the college and career readiness of high school students.