



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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TSTA applauds Davis plan to reduce standardized testing

TSTA President Rita Haecker applauded the announcement of Senator Wendy Davis' "Great Standards, Great Texas" plan to reduce the emphasis on standardized testing in Texas schools.

"Senator Davis' plan will free teachers to teach and free students to learn," Haecker said. "Teachers and parents support high academic standards, but we won't achieve those standards by standardizing our students."

Haecker said the test-driven Texas accountability system, which became the model for the federal No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top programs, has gone too far.

"Eight-year-old third graders should not be waking up literally feeling sick from STAAR testing pressure," Haecker observed, adding that Attorney General Greg Abbott's proposal to impose testing on four-year-old pre-K students "would be another misguided step toward turning our classrooms into test taking factories."

She also noted that TEA Commissioner Michael Williams is working to develop test-based teacher evaluation systems as a condition for a waiver from federal No Child Left Behind requirements.

"Standardized testing is a woefully inadequate way to measure the performance of students and teachers," Haecker said. "Excessive testing has become a corrupting influence in education, and Senator Davis' plan is music to the ears of educators and parents who want to bring the joy of learning back to our classrooms."