



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 8716 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78759 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2018

Contact: Clay Robison
512.476.5355, ext. 1313
cell: 512.535.8994

Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria released the following statement:

“The Texas State Teachers Association strongly objects to Gov. Greg Abbott’s proposal to arm more teachers, the so-called school marshals, as a part of his plan to address gun violence in schools. Teachers are trained to teach and to nurture, not double up as security guards. Answering a National Education Association survey conducted earlier this year, 82 percent of teachers and other school employees throughout the country, including 63 percent of gun owners, said they would not carry a gun to school. They know they are no match for heavily armed, suicidal intruders intent on killing.

“Sixty-nine percent of educators said arming teachers would not be effective against gun violence, and 64 percent even said they would feel less safe if their colleagues were allowed to have guns at school.

“The governor’s proposals to strengthen physical security measures at schools, to hire more professionally trained security guards and to expand mental health programs are steps that can save lives. But are temporary grants and federal funding, as the governor has proposed, enough to pay for them? Will the governor follow through with a plan for sufficient state funding when the grants expire or the federal money dries up? Or will he continue to under-fund public education and force budget-strapped school districts and local property taxpayers to bear an even greater burden?

“We don’t doubt that Gov. Abbott is as heartbroken as any other Texan over the recent tragedy at Santa Fe High School. But, tragically, children and educators have been dying in school shootings throughout the country for years. Why did it take a mass shooting in his own backyard in an election year to finally force the governor to respond with a sense of urgency?”