



TSTA NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TSTA: House Democratic Caucus addresses important educational priorities

Noel Candelaria, president of the Texas State Teachers Association, issued the following statement:

“We applaud the House Democratic Caucus for proposing a school funding plan that addresses many of our priorities, including more resources for classrooms, a larger contribution to educator health insurance premiums, reimbursements for classroom supplies and more funding for the Teacher Retirement System.

“We also are encouraged by the caucus’ proposal to set aside additional state funds for pay raises for teachers and school support staff, but we want to see more specifics. TSTA will support a teacher pay raise that is permanent, across-the-board, is paid for by the state and helps us close the \$7,300 deficit by which teacher pay in Texas lags behind the national average. The Legislature also must include sufficient funds in the budget to provide for pay raises for support staff.

“TSTA opposes so-called merit or incentive-based pay for a select group of teachers. Every Texas student deserves an effective teacher, and thousands of effective teachers are leaving Texas classrooms every year because of inadequate pay. Based on the National Education Association’s most recent survey, average teacher pay in Texas was \$53,167 during the 2017-18 school year, compared to the national average of \$60,483, ranking Texas 29th among the states and the District of Columbia.”