



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## **TSTA: School “choice” is about vouchers and under-funding public education**

The Texas State Teachers Association today said the so-called school or parental “choice” movement was a misleading attempt to take tax money from public schools and divert it to private school vouchers and other unproven privatization schemes.

“This is not about parental choice. It is about enriching operators of private schools or corporate charters,” said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. “You can call it a voucher, an education savings account or ‘choice,’ but that does not disguise the fact that it would create a dual system of funding education, benefitting only a handful of children and taking money from the public schools that will continue to educate the vast majority of Texas kids.”

“For most parents, private schools are not a choice because even with a voucher or education savings account, most private schools are simply not affordable,” Candelaria added, as the House Public Education Committee heard testimony on privatization proposals.

Candelaria said that instead of wasting tax dollars on unproven privatization gimmicks that pick winners and losers, legislators need to invest more resources into public schools to give every student an opportunity to succeed. Texas spends about \$2,700 per student below the national average, ranking Texas in the bottom tier of states in its financial commitment to school children. As public school enrollment in Texas increases by about 80,000 students each year, many school districts are still struggling to recover from the \$5.4 billion the legislative majority cut from public education in 2011.