



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2016

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

TSTA urges state board to reject inaccurate, harmful textbook

Texas State Teachers Association President Noel Candelaria urged the State Board of Education to reject a proposed textbook, *Mexican American Heritage*, which misrepresents and demeans the cultural contributions of more than half of Texas' 5.2 million public school students.

"Scholars have identified a litany of factual errors and inaccurate racial stereotypes that would harmfully misinform and prejudice students about a culture that is woven into the very fabric of Texas," Candelaria said in written testimony submitted to the board. "This book doesn't belong in our classrooms, because Texas students of all races and ethnicities should accurately understand the role the Hispanic culture and all cultures have played in enriching our wonderfully diverse state."

Candelaria said the book presents a narrative that his father, a legal immigrant from Mexico, and his family wouldn't recognize. As a child growing up in El Paso, Candelaria said, he witnessed firsthand his father's strong work ethic, commitment to public service and the devotion that he demonstrated daily for his family.

"I am proud of my Hispanic heritage because it is also an American heritage. Both embrace the qualities of hard work, public service and strong family values," Candelaria said.

He added: "I grew up with these qualities. My children are growing up with these qualities. I don't want them or any other Texas school child—of any culture, ethnicity or language—being made to feel that they are less important or less valued than any other member of this melting pot that we so proudly call the United States of America."