



# 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

August 30, 2017

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

## **TSTA joins the National Education Association to establish Harvey relief fund for members**

The Texas State Teachers Association is accepting donations to the Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief Fund established jointly with the National Education Association to help TSTA and NEA members displaced by the storm and to assist the schools where they work. These educators have the double task of rebuilding their own lives as well as helping rebuild the lives of their displaced students.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by going to this link and scrolling down to the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund:

<http://www.neafoundation.org/donate/>

TSTA President Noel Candelaria said early estimates indicate at least 20 to 30 percent of TSTA members have been adversely affected by the storm. Some have been forced to flee from their homes, and some teach and work in schools that are expected to be closed for the foreseeable future.

“This recovery will not happen overnight,” Candelaria said. “We can’t predict how long many of our TSTA and NEA sisters and brothers will be out of work or unable to move back into their homes. In many cases, their financial costs will be huge. Hurricane Harvey will fade from the headlines, but your continued support will help our members get through the long haul.

“With the help of NEA members across the country, we will help members in need of assistance recover and rebuild their lives,” Candelaria added. “Many TSTA members have volunteered to help families displaced by the storm, many of whom are being sheltered at public school campuses as far away as Austin. As educators, our top priority is our students, and in the aftermath of Harvey, we will work with our members, students and their families to rebuild homes and classrooms to make sure we all have a safe place to live, to learn, and to prosper.”

NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia said: “All of us can play a role in rebuilding the lives of those impacted by this storm, standing strong for our members and mending communities. On behalf of affected NEA members, thank you for your prayers and generosity. We will help our sisters and brothers find their way to brighter days and be their anchor through this storm.”

TSTA is the Texas affiliate of the three-million-member NEA.