“Great Teachers: Great Texas,” the first in a number of education policy proposals from Senator Davis, reflects her bold vision for developing, recruiting, and retaining quality Texas teachers.

Education must be a budget priority – in order to assure the promise of Texas that “where you start out does not determine how far you can go.” As someone who went from working multiple low-paid jobs to community college, TCU, Harvard Law, and on to a successful career in business, Senator Davis has worked hard in order to both keep jobs here and attract new businesses. That is why Senator Davis stood to filibuster the more than $5 billion in cuts to Texas schools in 2011. She believes that employers need a skilled, educated workforce in order to keep the Texas economy strong.

First, we need to assure parents, taxpayers, and businesses that their tax dollars are not being wasted. For the strength of our economy and our children, Senator Davis will use all available tools to prepare students for further education; get students to further education, and get students through further education.

“Great Teachers: Great Texas” contains six common sense reforms:

1. **Keep the Texas Promise for Quality Texas Teachers**
   a. Attract the best and brightest Texas students to careers in teaching.
   b. A high school student in the top 20% of his or her class during junior year who commits to a teaching career is guaranteed
      i. early acceptance to college,
      ii. a job teaching in a Texas school upon completing his or her requirements and certification.

2. **Enhance the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Program**
   a. Texas’s primary financial assistance program for aspiring teachers is currently unable to meet student demand. As Governor, Wendy Davis will
      i. ensure the program has the resources it needs to provide assistance to all qualified students;
      ii. tie loan forgiveness clearly and simply to teaching service, with one year of loan debt forgiven for each two years of teaching in a qualifying Texas school;
      iii. open the program to all students training to become Texas teachers, not just those in certain fields of study; and
      iv. allow current teachers to go back to school to get additional certification in one of the critical fields.

3. **Reestablish the Educational Aide Exemption**, which was established to help teacher’s aides to go back to school to get certified as full-time teachers, but has not been funded since 2012.

4. **Prepare high school students for careers in teaching** by creating, within the Public Services Endorsement newly established for high school students under HB 5, an educational pathway that is specific to teaching readiness, and by encouraging school districts to develop supplemental programs designed to inspire interested students to pursue a career in teaching.

5. **Attract and retain highly-qualified teachers** by bringing Texas teacher pay in line with the rest of the country.

6. **Increase the supply of qualified school counselors**, who are required under Texas law to be certified, experienced teachers.