



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 8716 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78759 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

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Contact: Clay Robison

ClayR@tsta.org

cell: 512.535.8994

TSTA: Educators are angry at the Senate's failure to appropriate federal education stimulus money; school kids need the extra resources

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement on the Senate's approval of SB1:

Texas educators are angry that the Senate has refused to include any of the almost \$18 billion in federal stimulus money earmarked for public education in Texas in its version of the new state budget. Our school kids need these additional resources, especially at a time when our public schools are dealing with the most critical and expensive emergency of our lifetimes.

The Senate has ignored the intent of President Biden and the congressional majority, who allocated that money to Texas specifically to help public schools operate safely during the pandemic and recoup some of their extra millions in pandemic-driven expenses.

The emergency federal money was not intended to be spent on other programs. It was not intended to be used to replace state education funding to help the Legislature balance the new state budget. And it wasn't provided to Texas to remain unspent while school districts continue to struggle to recover from this health crisis.

We urge lawmakers to add the \$18 billion to the education portion of the budget by the time the final version of the spending bill is written in conference committee.

The stimulus money includes \$12.4 billion appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act signed by President Biden earlier this year and \$5.5 billion appropriated by the last stimulus bill enacted while Donald Trump was still president in December.