



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

May 10, 2021

Contact: Portia Bosse

PortiaB@tsta.org

cell: 512.784.2305

TSTA, faculty group urge conferees to use higher revenue estimate to budget \$1.2B more for higher education and free up another \$6.7B in federal funds for K-12

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina and Texas Faculty Association President Pat Heintzelman released the following joint statement:

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar has added \$3.12 billion to the biennial revenue estimate for the upcoming budget period. The Texas State Teachers Association and the Texas Faculty Association urge budget conferees on Senate Bill 1 to use part of that additional revenue to add \$1.2 billion to the higher education budget.

Our universities need the additional funding, and adding \$1.2 billion to their budgets would meet the federal government's "maintenance of effort" requirement for releasing the remaining stimulus funds for Texas public schools, about \$6.7 billion.

The Texas Education Agency is accepting applications from school districts for \$11.2 billion in stimulus funds that already have been released to Texas. But the remaining \$6.7 billion won't be released until the state submits a plan for complying with federal requirements. The state has indicated it will seek a waiver from the requirement to keep K-12 and higher education spending during fiscal years 2022 and 2023 at the same proportion to total state spending as in previous years. State spending for higher education is \$1.2 billion short.

Texas students and educators, both in higher education and K-12, don't need a waiver. We need more funding. Our school districts and higher education institutions need the additional resources to recoup pandemic-related expenses, address learning losses and operate safely as we work to emerge from this health emergency.

Investing \$1.2 billion in state funding for a return of \$6.7 billion in federal funds is an opportunity the state would be short-sighted to refuse.

The Texas Faculty Association is an affiliate of the Texas State Teachers Association.