



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: Texas must spend the remaining \$7 billion in federal education stimulus funds to increase school budgets, not supplant state spending

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement:

As the legislative session winds to a close, uncertainty remains over the remaining federal stimulus funds, about \$7 billion, earmarked for public education in Texas. House and Senate conferees, it has been reported, have reached agreement on a new state budget that removes all legislative oversight over how those funds are to be spent and gives that responsibility to the governor.

The federal government won't release the money to Texas until the Texas Education Agency submits its state plan for spending the funds to the Department of Education in early June.

The Texas State Teachers Association's position hasn't changed. Every penny of the stimulus funds must be allocated to Texas' public schools to keep classrooms safe, recoup financial losses from the pandemic and help students recover from learning losses.

We urge the governor to use the money to supplement the budgets of public school districts, as Congress intended, not to replace state funding. We also urge the allocation of all the money over the next three years, also as Congress intended, without requiring districts to set aside any state funds, as Senate Education Chairman Larry Taylor has proposed.