



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: Retired educators need a cost-of-living adjustment, and teachers need a significant pay raise

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

“We were pleased to hear Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick say he could support a cost-of-living adjustment or another 13th check for retired educators at his news conference on Wednesday. But another 13th check won’t be enough. Retired educators need a cost-of-living adjustment in their pensions, which they haven’t had in years. The average monthly pension for Teacher Retirement System members in fiscal 2022 was \$2,174, which is hardly livable for retirees who have devoted their lives to improving opportunities for millions of public school children. Most of these retirees don’t receive Social Security, which makes their need for a cost-of-living adjustment all the more urgent. With a huge surplus, the Legislature can afford it.

“Patrick also said he would add more money to the budget for teacher pay raises. We expect him to keep that promise. It is important that he and lawmakers do that because even with the raises from 2019, the average teacher salary in Texas is \$7,500 less than the national average. If Patrick and the Legislature are serious about addressing the teacher shortage, they will give teachers a significant raise to ensure the best teachers are recruited and retained in the profession.”