



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: Most Texas voters support raises for all teachers. If not this session, when?

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

Most Texas voters want the Legislature to address the teacher shortage by enacting an across-the-board pay raise for all teachers, not so-called merit pay for a select few.

In a bipartisan poll conducted for TSTA earlier this session, 81 percent of voters said a teacher pay raise was one of their top priorities. This included 53 percent of Republican voters, 52 percent of Republicans in swing districts and 64 percent of rural Republicans.

In the same poll, 65 percent of voters said the pay raise must be statewide across-the-board for all teachers, not for just a few based on STAAR scores. This included 44 percent of Republicans, 61 percent of Republicans in swing districts and 52 percent of rural Republicans.

The Teacher Vacancy Task Force appointed by Gov. Abbott and the education commissioner also concluded that compensation was the No. 1 issue for addressing the teacher shortage. In its report, it pointed out the need for lawmakers to pay for a “significant increase” in overall teacher salaries by increasing the basic allotment and other state funding mechanisms.

TSTA believes these pay raises must be substantial. We are seeking a minimum increase of \$10,000 in a state where the average teacher pay lags \$7,500 behind the national average and the Legislature is working with a \$33 billion surplus. The money is there, and the political will should be there too. If not this session, when?

We are also seeking pay increases for support staff. This can be done by increasing the basic allotment to provide districts with the funds to raise pay for bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other employees. They also are underpaid and deserve more.