TSTA OPPOSES HB 13 BY KING

(TSTA was neutral with concerns initially, but we oppose as reported out of committee)

1. **HB 13 would incentivize the expansion of school guardians and would increase guns on campuses.**
   a. School guardians would be entitled to stipends of up to $25,000.
   b. This is a misuse of funds and would divert substantially needed funds from evidence-based practices proven to improve school safety.
   c. Educators overwhelmingly oppose arming teachers and other school staff, even educators who own guns.

2. **HB 13 deemphasizes the importance of evidence-based prevention measures** and signals to districts that the school safety allotment should be spent on guns and other hardening technologies.
   a. HB 13 strikes language in statute regarding the many allowable uses of the school safety allotment including prevention and treatment programs; providing licensed mental health personnel, and behavior specialists.
   b. HB 13 publishes a vendor registry focused on expensive hardening products.

3. **HB 13 could add training required of teachers.**
   a. The bill provides an allotment to district for training reimbursement, but language makes it sound like teachers could be required to frontload expenses. *TSTA offered substitute language that the author did not consider.*
   b. The bill also does not make clear that the training required is not necessarily new training. *TSTA offered clarifying substitute language that the author did not consider.*

4. **HB 13 is expensive — $1.6B through the next biennium,** and much of this money would be going to stipend educators to carry a weapon at the expense of a much-needed teacher salary increase.