



# 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

June 5, 2024

Contact: Clay Robison

ClayR@tsta.org

cell: 512.535.8994

## **TSTA: Public education is not Sunday school**

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement about the proposed instructional and curriculum materials that include biblical references:

The Texas State Teachers Association urges state officials to be careful in adding stories from the Bible and other biblical references to instructional materials or curriculum used in Texas public schools. Our public schools were created to teach facts to children of all religions or no religion, not to indoctrinate students in the teachings of selected religions. This is consistent with the separation of church and state principle under which our country has operated since its beginning.

It is appropriate for public schools to provide a historical or literary context in the study of various religions, their writings and their beliefs. But it is inappropriate for public schools to teach these writings and beliefs as historical facts. Public education is not Sunday school.

It has been reported that school districts that choose proposed, new instructional materials with biblical references and stories will receive additional state funding of as much as \$60 per student. We object to singling out school districts for additional funding based on which instructional materials or curriculum they use. All our school districts need additional funding. Hundreds of districts are suffering from serious budgetary shortfalls because Gov. Abbott refused to let the Legislature increase education funding last year without a private school voucher program.