

ACPTA Advocacy 87th Legislative Session

Texas PTA Rally Day, February 22, 2021
The Legislative Visit – How to Prepare & What to Expect

ACPTA Advocacy, PTA Rally Day

87th Legislative Session

ACPTA/PTA does not support any political party or individual candidate for office. We work with people from all political parties.

- As Advocates, we may take positions on issues related to education and child advocacy.
- We build relationships with legislators and public policy makers by maintaining regular communication channels via emails, phone calls and in-person meetings, and serving as experts on the public education experience.

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Elected officials are people just like us. Most of them care deeply about their community, want to represent their district well, and need to know how community members feel and what we think in order to do that.

- AISD is represented by 9 Texas Legislators: 3 state Senators and 6 state Representatives. All Texans are also represented by the Texas Governor, Lt. Governor and House Speaker.
- Legislators rely on their staff to help them collect and analyze information. Be prepared to meet with a legislator OR a staffer. Staffers, especially senior staff, have a great deal of responsibility and generally, a great deal of knowledge on major issues. They are often able to influence the legislator's positions and priorities.

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MASTERING YOUR LEGISLATIVE MEETING

- Prepare documents to share: Information on ACPTA, Legislative Priorities sheet(s), group contact information.
- Create an agenda and make assignments for group members (welcome, thank you for past support, introductions, your targeted priority asks, personal stories, wrap up and questions).
- Research your legislator. What policies do they support, do they have any special interests, what committees do they serve on, have they supported your priorities in the past, how have they voted in the past?

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MEETING DAY

- Arrive on time, dress appropriately and be prepared to participate. Address legislators respectfully as Senator “x” or Representative “y”.
- Tell legislator about ACPTA and the key initiatives/priorities that are important to your group. Priority asks should be well thought out, concise, and limited to no more than 3 or 4 in one meeting.
- Ask your legislator to do something specific related to your priorities, such as cosponsor a bill, discuss in committee, or vote in support or opposition.
- Focus on the issue, not the problem (crowded classrooms are a problem, inadequate facilities or lack of funding for staff is the issue).

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MEETING DAY

- Stick to the agenda, expect meeting to last 20-30 minutes.
- Remember, you are representing the views of ACPTA, AISD and Texas PTA. Only share personal stories related to your group's priority asks.
- Be a good listener and observer. Allow legislator or staffer to ask questions, offer their viewpoint and/or discuss past voting record.
- If legislator is already "on board" with your issues, ask for his/her suggestions as to actions your group might take to advance shared priorities.

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MEETING DAY

- If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them you'll get back to them with the answer (great follow up opportunity)
- Avoid arguments. Always be cordial and courteous. You are there to provide community input, request help on priorities, and build an ongoing relationship
- Wrap up meeting with sincere thank you for legislator's time and offer to be of assistance (be a resource and/or expert)
- Share contact information from group leadership
- Confirm names of any staff members who attended the meeting

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POST MEETING FOLLOW UP

- Build your relationship. Make note of legislator's staff members, especially those assigned to your priority area.
- Follow up with a personal thank you note, include a note of thanks to any staffers (if they were present)
- Follow up on any outstanding questions or information requests – be a resource and/or expert.
- Post photos of your meeting on ACPTA website and share with Texas PTA so they can post too

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AUSTIN ISD

WHO REPRESENTS US AT THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

Find your individual state house rep or state senator at
<https://house.texas.gov/members/find-your-representative/>

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Austin ISD – State Senators



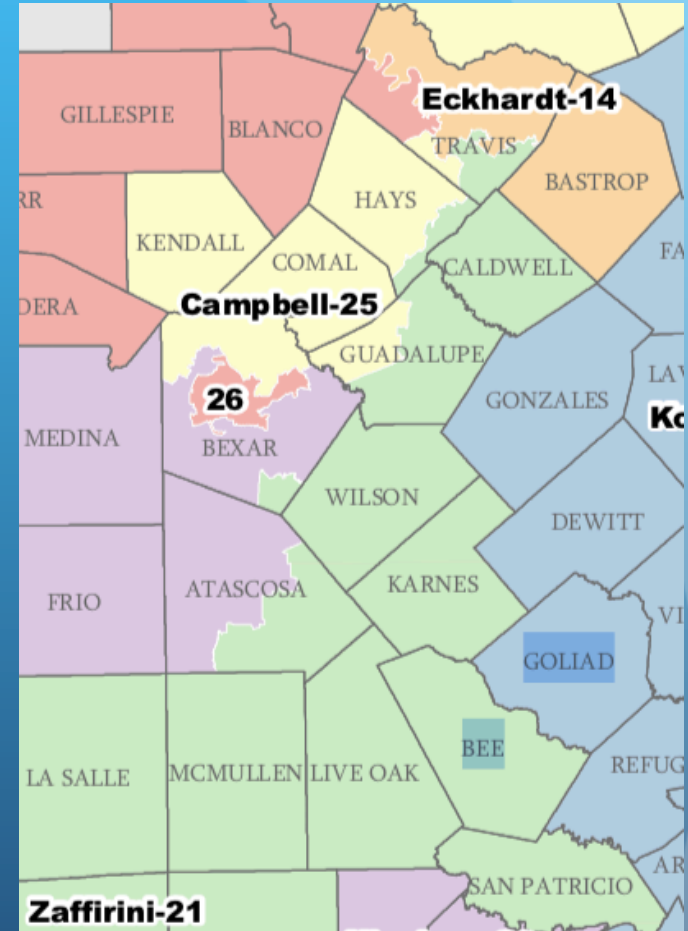
Senate District 14
SARAH ECKHARDT (D)
512-463-0114
sarah.eckhardt@senate.texas.gov



Senate District 25
DONNA CAMPBELL (R)
512-463-0125
donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov



Senate District 21
JUDITH ZAFFIRINI (D)
512-463-0121
judith.zaffirini@senate.texas.gov



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Austin ISD – State House Representatives



House District 46
SHERYL COLE (D)
512-463-0506
sheryl.cole@house.texas.gov



House District 47
VIKKI GOODWIN (D)
512-463-0652
vikki.goodwin@house.texas.gov



House District 48
DONNA HOWARD (D)
512-463-0631
donna.howard@house.texas.gov

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Austin ISD – State House Representatives



House District 49
GINA HINOJOSA (D)
512-463-0668
gina.hinojosa@house.texas.gov



House District 50
CELIA ISRAEL (D)
512-463-0821
celia.israel@house.texas.gov



House District 51
EDDIE RODRIGUEZ (D)
512-463-0674
eddie.rodriquez@house.texas.gov

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Senate Committee on Education



CHAIR - Larry Taylor (R-League City, Brazoria, Galveston)
512-463-0111 / larry.taylor@senate.texas.gov



VICE CHAIR - Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Harlingen)
512-463-0127 / eddie.lucio@senate.texas.gov

Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston)
Bob Hall (R-Rockwall)
Bryan Hughes (R-Longview)
* José Menéndez (D-San Antonio)
Angela Paxton (R-Allen, North Dallas)
* Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)
Beverly Powell (D-Ft. Worth)
* Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown, Bryan)
Royce West (D-Dallas)

*new to Education Committee this session

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State Executive Leadership



Governor
GREG ABBOTT (R)
512-463-2000
<https://gov.texas.gov/contact>



Lt. Governor
DAN PATRICK (R)
512-463-0001
<https://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/contact/>



Speaker of the House
DADE PHELAN (R)
512-463-1000
dade.phelan@house.texas.gov

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INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION FORM

Sign up to participate in PTA Rally Day 2021 on Feb. 22 (as an individual or a class). We want to know what public education priorities are most important to you.

PTA Rally Day 2021 - Individual Participation Form (English)

Form description

First Name *

Short answer text

Last Name *

Short answer text

Association *

Student

Parent

My top 4 Public Education priorities are:

- Public School Funding System Reform - Maintain funding for all components of House Bill 3, the compre...
- Special Education Funding
- Digital Connectivity/Broadband for All - Pursue legislation and funding to ensure all Texas public school st...
- School Safety
- Cyberbullying
- Student Mental Health
- Juvenile Justice Reform
- A - F Accountability System
- State Assessment
- Keep Public Dollars in Public Schools
- Other (examples: Vaping Regulations, LGBTQ Advocacy, Child and Youth Trafficking, Healthy Lifestyles, Glo...

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INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RESOURCES

Austin ISD - 87th Legislature, Legislative Priorities & Appendix

https://www.austinisd.org/sites/default/files/dept/legislature/docs/111920_LegePriorities_forWeb.pdf

https://www.austinisd.org/sites/default/files/dept/legislature/docs/111920_LegePriorities_Appendix_forWeb.pdf

Texas PTA - 87th Legislature, Legislative Priorities

<https://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities/>

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PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCACY PARTNERS & RESOURCES

- Raise Your Hand Texas, <https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/advocacy/>
- Just Fund It Texas, <https://justfundittx.org>
- TAMSA (Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment), <https://tamsatx.org>
- ACPTA Advocacy, <https://austincouncilpta.org/advocacy/>
- AISD Advocacy, <https://www.austinisd.org/legislature>
- Texas PTA Advocacy, <https://www.txpta.org/advocacy>

ACPTA Advocacy

Videos worth watching

Texas Public Schools – This is Where the Future Begins
(2 minute video) 2018 Raise Your Hand Texas

<https://youtu.be/Mi1H7inrZtk>

Texas Public Schools - Who Really Funds Public Schools?
(2 minute video) 2018 Raise Your Hand Texas

https://youtu.be/t7l1gOV_3Rc