The Teaching and Learning Council (TLC) convenes practitioners and a focused group of diverse stakeholders committed to improving the public education system in Texas, with a focus on effective teaching practices and college and career readiness. The Council acts as a resource to Texas legislators, state agencies, and other regulatory bodies by sharing its research and evidence-based recommendations related to effective teaching policy.

Over the last year, TLC has convened to develop recommendations intended to improve education outcomes for over 5.4 million Texas students, with an emphasis on addressing education inequities that predominately affect African American and Latino students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students from economically disadvantaged families.

Below, we offer recommendations for promoting systemic equity in education, investing wisely in the school system, and building capacity and promoting quality within the teaching profession, with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for students so that they can be successful in school, the workforce, and life.

Teachers are the most important in-school factor affecting student learning. Many districts experience difficulty attracting, preparing, developing, and retaining their most effective teachers. 1 in 3 educators leave the profession completely within 5 years.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

STRENGTHEN and INVEST in the TEACHING PROFESSION

- Improve the quality and rigor of educator preparation.
- Provide funding that allows schools to support mentor teachers with the resources and flexibility necessary to serve as mentors with reduced classroom responsibilities.
- Invest in promoting lasting equity and diversity in the teacher workforce and educational leadership.
- Improve entry and exit requirements for educator preparation programs.
- Review and revise or adopt expectations and standards pertaining to effective teaching in virtual settings.
- Memorialize in statute a committee, such as Educator Preparation Advisory Committee, whose function is to support the state agency in continuous improvement work in educator preparation strategies focused on standards, professional development and state initiatives.
PROMOTE EQUITY in the K-12 SYSTEM

Create a statewide comprehensive broadband strategy to ensure equitable distribution of broadband internet access and technology literacy resources for all students and teachers.

Invest in mental health and trauma-informed preparation, resources, and supports for students, campus leaders, and teachers, including allowances for virtual counseling and additional support resources for teachers educating during a global crisis.

MAINTAIN a COMMITMENT to K-12 THROUGH COVID-19

Support school funding initiatives and House Bill 3 (2019) with integrity by:

- Providing funding flexibility for average daily attendance measures by shifting to student enrollment funding, with weights for vulnerable students.
- Adjusting accountability to address the issues that districts, teachers, and students have faced since the start of the pandemic.
- Making extended school day and extended school year provisions available to all of pre-K-12 grade levels.
- Maintain funding to districts as they grapple with COVID-19 issues. Access the state’s Economic Stabilization Fund as necessary to reduce undue strain on public school finance and provide districts and educators with resources crucial to teaching during the pandemic.
- Identify and adopt educator preparation, professional development, and micro-credentialing standards regarding the delivery of online instruction to students in a blended or virtual learning environment.
For more information on the Teaching and Learning Council, please visit edtx.org/tlc.