

Target 2020: A Blueprint for the Next Decade of Public Education Reform


TIER Policy Series
Fall 2010

TIER 
Texas Institute For Education Reform

www.texaseducationreform.org



Who Are We? - The TIER Mission



"Every child will graduate from high school fully prepared for higher education and the 21st century workplace as well as responsible citizenship"

Who Are We? - The TIER Mission

Our mission is to enable Texas public schools to meet this objective by adopting and implementing the following public education policy initiatives:

- ✓ Adopt Higher Standards for Teaching and Learning
- ✓ Create New and Better Assessments
- ✓ Enact Higher Standards for Academic and Financial Accountability
- ✓ Attack the Reading Crisis
- ✓ Increase Educator Effectiveness
- ✓ Accelerate Deregulation, Innovation, and Competition

Our advocacy is research, data, and policy driven.

Our resources include access to the best education minds in the country.

Who We Are

Board of Directors

Jim Windham, Chairman – Houston
Andrew Erben, President – Austin
Charlie Amato – San Antonio
Tony Annunziato – Houston
Gene Austin – Austin
Michelle Brock – Midland
Bernie Francis – Dallas
Bill Hammond – Austin
Sandy Kress – Austin
Bill McMinn – Houston
David Merrill – Brownsville
Rod Paige, Ed.D. – Houston
Andy Thompson – Ft. Worth

Policy Advisory Board

Patricia B. Bubb
Chrys Dougherty, Ph.D.
Beto Gonzalez
Eric Hanushek, Ph.D.
Maria Hernandez Ferrier, Ed.D.
Rick Hess, Ph.D.
Dianne Johnson
Matt Ladner, Ph.D.
Don McAdams, Ph.D.
Chris Patterson
Billy Reagan, Ph.D.
Paul Ruiz, Ph.D.
Sandra Stotsky, Ph.D.

Our Allies

In 2009, TIER helped found and leads the Texas Coalition for a Competitive Workforce (TCCW).

Member organizations in addition to TIER include:

- ✓ Career and Technology Association of Texas
- ✓ Education Trust, SW
- ✓ Governor's Business Council
- ✓ Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ TechAmerica
- ✓ Texas Association of Business
- ✓ Texas Charter School Association
- ✓ Texas High School Project
- ✓ Texas Public Policy Foundation
- ✓ Texas State Council- Society for Human Resource Management



Texas Coalition for a Competitive Workforce

Our National Allies



TIER is the only Texas member of the Policy Innovators in Education Network (PIE Net). PIE Net is a network of the leading education reform organizations in the country and was founded by the Center for American Progress, The Center for Reinventing Public Education, Education Sector, and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation.



www.pie-network.org

Advocacy Accomplishments

House Bill 3

- ✓ Establishes postsecondary readiness as the organizing principle of the Texas public education system and the high school graduation standard; mandates benchmarks at each grade level to evaluate student progress towards this goal.
- ✓ Requires the state to raise achievement standards over time so that Texas will be in the top ten states in the percentage of students who graduate ready for postsecondary work by 2020.
- ✓ Requires high school students to pass end-of-course exams in English, math, science, and social studies.
- ✓ Rates schools based on the percentage of students that graduate at the postsecondary readiness level or are on a trajectory to do so.
- ✓ Gives students the flexibility to take more career and technical education courses and earn credits toward college, a state license, or industry certification in the spirit of "one standard, multiple pathways, equal rigor."
- ✓ Promotes financial accountability, encourages sharing of best practices, and provides sanctions for districts and schools that are not fiscally responsible.

Pay for Performance Grants

- ✓ Increased funding for teacher incentive pay programs to reward our most effective teachers from \$342.8 million to \$395.5 million.
- ✓ Defeated several efforts to abolish the program and shift this funding to a one-time, across-the-board pay raise that would not drive performance in the classroom.

SB 174

- ✓ Holds educator preparation programs accountable for the performance of the teachers they graduate by considering their impact on student achievement during their first three years on the job.
- ✓ Rates educator preparation programs based on accountability standards and requires that they be sanctioned if they fail to meet standards.
- ✓ Requires the state to publish information about the performance of educator preparation programs and the qualifications of its students and graduates.

Where Are We?

Texas has led the nation in standards and accountability based reform, that's the good news. But most of this good news has been at the Elementary level, and major proficiency challenges remain:

- ✓ According to the NCEA, in 2007 there was no grade level with the average of all students above 44% on the "PSR ramp" and none in which low income students were above 30%.
- ✓ According to the THECB only 68% of Texas 7th graders from 1998 completed high school within six years and only 18% of those students received a degree or certificate in postsecondary education by 2009.
- ✓ According to the ACT, only 24% of Texas High School graduates are "college ready" in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. English and Reading scores have declined since 2008.
- ✓ According to the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, only 36% of Texas 8th graders are proficient in Math and only 27% are proficient in Reading.
- ✓ According to the SAT, mean Verbal and Writing scores have declined since 2006 while Math scores have held steady.
- ✓ Almost half of Texas High School graduates who attend college need remedial courses.

What Happens Next - Target 2020

In keeping with HB 3's requirement that Texas be a national leader in postsecondary readiness by 2020, TIER has identified the next steps in transformational reform necessary for us to achieve this goal. Continued reforms are needed in the following areas:

- ✓ Academic Accountability
- ✓ Financial Accountability
- ✓ Human Resources – Educator Supply and Quality
- ✓ Innovation, Deregulation, Entrepreneurship, & Competition
- ✓ Infrastructure – Data Systems & Capacity
- ✓ Governance

2011 Legislative & Regulatory Issues

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ Defend gains from HB 3 in 2009 and prior accountability legislation. Oppose efforts to weaken accountability, dilute postsecondary readiness standards, and lower academic rigor for career and technical education (CTE) programs.
- ✓ Improve the current TEA growth measure with value-added measures to make it a more accurate measurement of student achievement gains over time. Ensure that ongoing improvement to the PEIMS data system support the use of value-added measures.
- ✓ Adopt “parent trigger” legislation that permits 51% of parents in a school that has not met federal AYP goals for several years to vote in new management—including charter school management.

EDUCATION FUNDING AND PRODUCTIVITY

- ✓ Continue significant funding for non-foundation school grant programs that directly drive HB 3 and other vital state goals such as District Awards for Teacher Excellence (DATE), the algebra readiness and critical professional development elements of the Student Success Initiative, Teach for America, Early Childhood School Readiness, the Limited English Proficient Student Success Initiative, and critical elements of the High School Completion and Success Initiative—especially the emerging focus on middle school transformation.
- ✓ The state should, within an independent state agency and with cost savings identified in related areas, study cost effectiveness and productivity, rank school districts in terms of financial productivity and accountability, and create incentives within the state funding mechanism for greater efficiencies in spending.
- ✓ Reduce the number of state regulations (such as the state minimum salary schedule, class size ratios, etc.) on schools and empower school officials to be creative and make changes based on local needs and goals.
- ✓ Adopt legislation that expands access to the Texas Virtual Schools Network and removes barriers to private and charter digital learning.
- ✓ Support a legislative interim study on the state education governance system to determine if there is a more effective and efficient way to establish cohesive state education policy.

2011 Legislative & Regulatory Issues Continued

DATA SYSTEMS

✓ Ensure that the enhanced data systems being developed separately by the TEA and the THECB are compatible, provide free access for all school districts, and track individual annual student progress throughout K-20 in the following areas: attendance, courses completed, credit accumulation, disciplinary action, annual growth, remediation rates, and the degree to which students are on track toward on-time high school graduation at the PSR level. Additionally, the systems should include student-teacher linkages and information regarding the educator preparation programs and professional development programs for all teachers. The TEA and THECB should enter into a written agreement covering compatibility, data sharing, data collection/entry, and data use by each agency, educators, researchers, campuses, districts, and institutions of higher education.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

- ✓ Support the passage of charter school legislation to raise the cap on the number of charters the state can issue, ease the application process for successful charter schools to open new schools, and encourage co-location of charter schools and traditional schools.
- ✓ Find better performance measures for both traditional and charter school "Dropout Reduction High Schools".
- ✓ Create a fair, but more efficient, method of revoking the charters of low-performing charter schools and charter schools that are financially insolvent. Create a new entity to authorize and revoke charters.
- ✓ Extend the state's bond guarantee through the Permanent School Fund to charter schools.
- ✓ Promote fair funding for successful charter schools to include local tax revenue, facilities funding, and maintenance and operation funding.

2011 Legislative & Regulatory Issues Continued

EDUCATOR QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE

- ✓ Continue to work with the State Board for Educator Certification and the Texas Education Agency to ensure the proper implementation of the enhancements to the Accountability System for Educator Preparation in SB 174.
- ✓ Enhance local control by giving districts more autonomy in human resource management—including teacher compensation. Avoid statewide teacher compensation adjustments, which hamper local efforts to allocate resources based on effectiveness.
- ✓ Improve access to the teaching profession by expanding truly alternative routes to teacher preparation and certification.
- ✓ Improve school leadership by enabling the expansion of recruitment from non-traditional backgrounds.
- ✓ Adopt legislation or administrative rules to:
 - Include student academic growth in annual teacher and principal evaluations,
 - Streamline the process for removal of ineffective teachers by basing their non-probationary status on demonstrated and continued effectiveness,
 - End forced teacher placement in schools, and
 - Eliminate teacher retention, compensation, and assignment determined by seniority, advanced degrees, and other “inputs” and require that all staff reductions give priority to teacher effectiveness.

What You Can Do

- ✓ Accountability starts at home – Work with your local superintendent & school board
- ✓ Contact your state representative – email, letters, phone calls & personal visits
Who Represents Me? Go to - <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>
- ✓ Testify at education policy hearings
- ✓ Submit commentaries to newspapers
- ✓ Work with Texas Association of Business, chambers of commerce & other groups
- ✓ Invite TIER to speak with other groups in your community
- ✓ **Support TIER** - If you like the message, send a check!



Questions?

For more information:

Andrew Erben
President

Texas Institute for Education Reform
208 West 14th Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 215-9105

Follow us on Twitter @Twitter.com/TexasEduReform
and Facebook @ Facebook.com/TexasInstituteForEducationReform
Or visit our web site at www.texaseducationreform.org

TIER
Texas Institute For Education Reform

