



March 27, 2023

***Re: HB 13 training, preparedness, & funding for school safety & school safety emergencies.***

Madam Chair & Members of the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety:

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in “support” of **HB 13** as filed by Chairman Ken King. The health and safety of students and school district employees is of paramount concern to the membership of TASA.

We appreciate the practical provisions of HB 13 that allow mental health first aid training to happen over multiple years. Providing an allotment, which allows employees to be reimbursed for travel and training fees is also a valued component of the bill.

Providing a stipend of up to \$25,000 per school year for school guardians to participate in training and instruction in mental health first aid and trauma-informed-care will ensure guardians have the tools needed to work in school settings. The stipend also provides a monetary incentive for employees to take on this additional important work.

TASA appreciates Chairman King’s recognition that enhancing infrastructure for every school campus and district to meet TEA established minimum standards requires funding. TEA estimated the costs for districts to comply with these standards to be approximately \$2.1 billion, not including any requirements the legislature may impose during the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

We believe the increase in the School Safety Allotment (SSA) to \$100 per student is a critical step in the right direction. During interim hearings on school safety in both chambers, superintendents expressed the need for there to be a minimum floor for smaller/rural districts for the SSA as the static amount doesn’t always cover the costs of the needed materials or services and we hope consideration will be given to adding this type of floor.

TASA applauds Chairman King in his efforts to help ensure school districts have the resources needed to provide safe schools communities. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

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