



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF RURAL SCHOOLS
"The Voice for Texas Rural Schools"

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Tommy Hooker – Secretary
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Dear Members:

Thank you for supporting the work of the ***Texas Association of Rural Schools***.

With the 86th Legislative Session concluded, we begin to reflect on the work that has been accomplished this session. Did we stay true to the primary mission of **TARS** – ***To impact the state's school finance and property tax systems so to ensure equitable distribution of education resources and tax burdens***. Four individuals have worked on your behalf each day this session to impact a positive outcome at the Texas Capitol. Our efforts culminated in the Nichols Amendment to HB 3 that was cut on the final day in conference committee. The Nichols Amendment worked to preserve the small/mid-size school adjustment in the formula. Over 3000 hours were spent during the 86th Legislative Session advocating on behalf of our member districts and on behalf of all the school children of Texas. We definitely made some great contacts and formed some lasting relationships that will further our efforts to protect rural, small and mid-sized school districts in the future.

Why should you be a member of the ***Texas Association of Rural Schools***?

- Premier Legislative Consulting - 2 full-time advocates working on your behalf in Austin both during session and during the interim in committee work as we did with the Commission on Public School Finance;
- 2 former superintendents working full-time on your behalf to protect the values and interests of rural, small and mid-sized districts, as we did with the Governor's office on school safety and with the Commission;
- Representation through regional directors and at-large directors from member school districts;
- Membership luncheon during TASA Mid-Winter;
- Discounted legal agreement with Eichelbaum Wardell Hansen Powell & Munoz;
- Discounted registration to Texas Association of Mid-Sized Schools Legislative Conference;
- Access to knowledgeable and successful partners;

We are humbled to serve you and appreciate your continued support as we work to make the ***Texas Association of Rural Schools*** the very best organization it can be for its membership.

Sincerely,

Mike and Leigh Ann

Michael Lee and Leigh Ann Glaze