



Resolution: Affirming TASP Commitment to High Quality Public Education for All Children and Youth

The work of the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) is grounded in its professional standards, adopted position statements, and other official policy statements of the Association. As legislators and agencies work to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act, TASP reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality, public education that provides them with the comprehensive skills necessary to be successful in school, at home, and throughout life.

WHEREAS, the rights of all children and youth are to be equally respected regardless of their background, origins, beliefs, or personal characteristics;

WHEREAS, TASP is committed to ensuring that all children and youth receive a free and appropriate public education regardless of actual or perceived characteristics, including race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, immigration status, socioeconomic status, language, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, cognitive capabilities, social–emotional skills, developmental level, chronic illness, any other personal identity or distinguishing characteristic, or educational need;

WHEREAS, all children and youth, regardless of where they live, should have access to a high-quality public education;

WHEREAS, schools need to be accountable to the public, and especially to families, regarding the quality of instruction and other services provided;

WHEREAS, school psychologists assist families in understanding and adhering to legislation and regulations relevant to general and special education;

WHEREAS, TASP is committed to advocating for the rights, education, mental health, and behavioral needs of all students, and believes all students, including those with disabilities, are entitled to a free and appropriate public education in a positive and inclusive educational environment; WHEREAS, all children and youth can learn, and schools have a responsibility to teach them both academic and behavioral skills;

WHEREAS, maintaining a high-quality public education system is one of the greatest responsibilities of the United States and one of the wisest investments in the nation’s future;

WHEREAS, TASP believes racism, prejudice, and discrimination harm all children and youth, leading to a profoundly negative effect on school achievement, self-efficacy, and social–emotional growth;

WHEREAS, TASP believes school psychologists are ethically obligated to ensure all students have equal

opportunity to learn and to develop in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, aggression, violence, and abuse;

WHEREAS, school psychologists promote fairness and social justice in educational programs and services;

WHEREAS, TASP is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and the promotion of equal opportunity, fairness, justice, and respect for all persons;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, TASP is opposed to any educational funding system that funnels public money to pre-K–12 schools that lack public accountability, require the loss or declination of rights afforded to students or families, or enable discriminatory practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, TASP is committed to working with policy makers and other stakeholders to advance policies that support increased availability of high-quality public schools that support all students.

Adopted by the TASP Executive Board on April 6, 2017.