

# **SUNSET AND IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: READY, SET, ADVOCATE!**



**LAURIE KLOSE, PH.D.**  
**STEPHANIE KNEEDLER, SSP**  
**MARTY DELEON, JD**

# TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

- Review the basics of effective advocacy
- Discuss important issues in the 2017 Legislative Session
- Develop plan for advocacy activities

# A QUICK REVIEW: WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

- Advocacy is the "act of **pleading** or **arguing in favor of** something, such as a cause, idea, or policy."  
(American Heritage Dictionary, 2003)
- Key issues:
  - **Pleading**
  - **Arguing**
  - **Taking a position for or against**



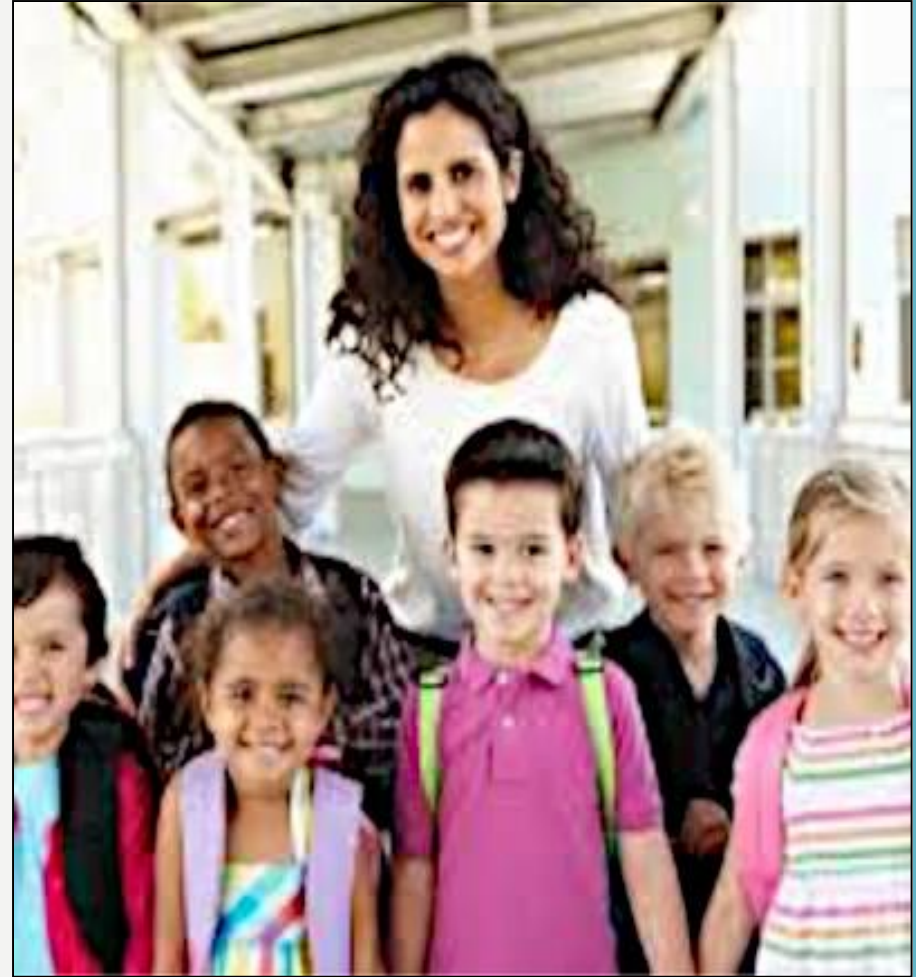
# WHY IS ADVOCACY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- Promotes, maintains, and protects professional identity
- Ensures empirically based practice and policy
- Ensures access to services that will support student success
- If we don't, who will?

# TWO TYPES OF ADVOCACY



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



Professional Advocacy

# WHAT IS GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY?

“Grassroots” refers to a **network of people** who care about something or desire to do something.

They emerge from the “core” and provide a **foundation for action**.

- Grassroots efforts typically progress from **bottom up** vs. being driven from someone at the top.

# WHY DO WE ADVOCATE?

## Ethical Responsibility

*“School psychologists have a special obligation to speak up for the rights and welfare of students and families, and to provide a voice to clients who cannot or do not wish to speak for themselves”*

## Standard IV.1.2.

*“school psychologists...advocate for school policies and practices that are in the best interests of children”*

National Association of School Psychologists (2010). *Ethical and Professional Standards for School Psychologists*.

# “WHY DO YOU NEED TO ADVOCATE?”

There are **181 voting members** of the Texas Legislature

- There are over **347,469 teachers** in Texas.

If only 10% of teachers in Texas contacted their elected officials, there would be an average of **192 contacts** per member of the legislature.

There are approximately **3500 LSSPs**. If only 10% of LSSPs contact their elected officials, there would be an average of **19 contacts** per member of the legislature regarding the issues important to school psychologists.

**Every voice counts!**



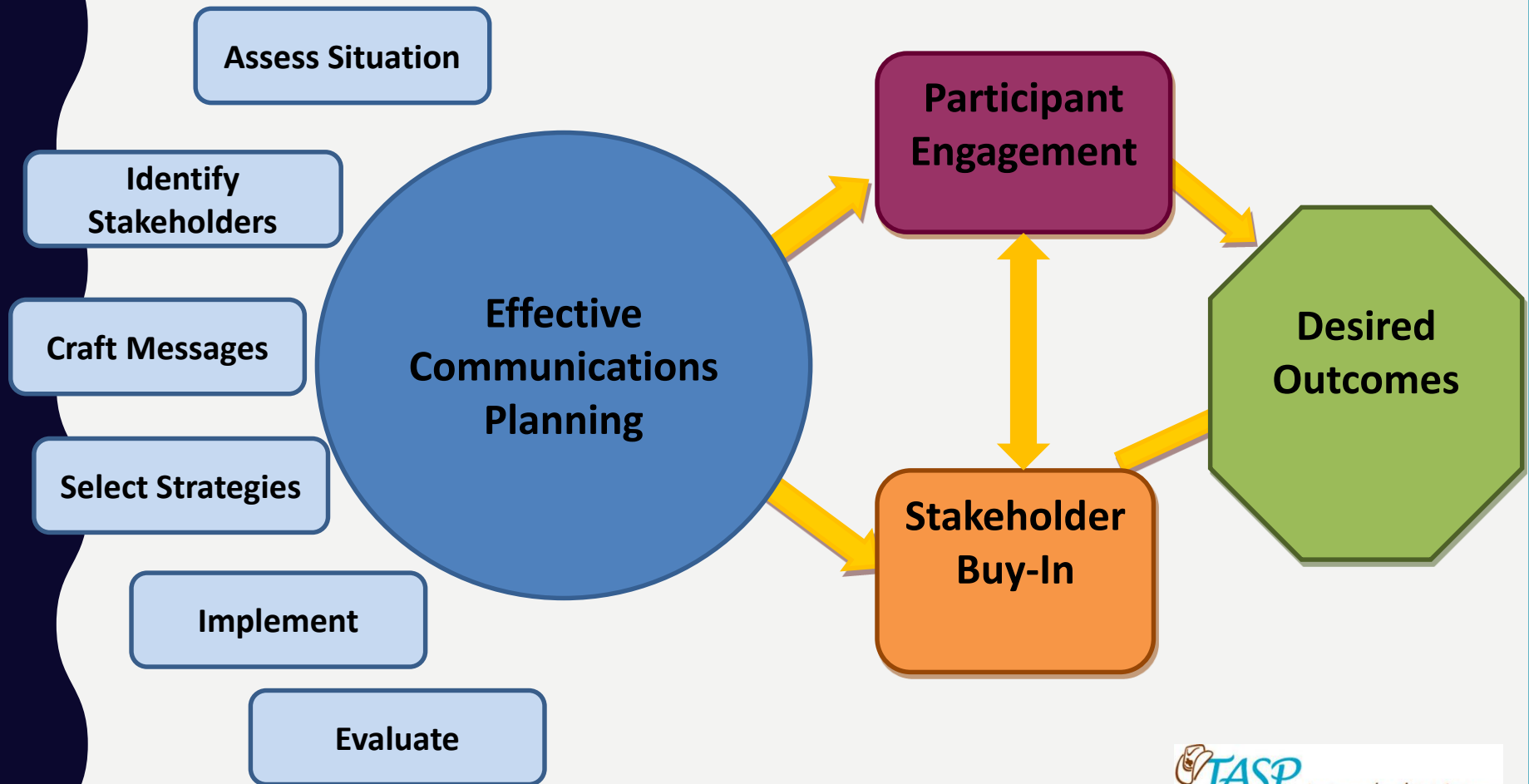
ADVOCACY STARTS WITH  
CLEAR CONCISE STATEMENTS  
ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE...



# TASP CORE VALUES

- **Advocacy:** TASP engages in actions and activities that seek to positively influence outcomes directly affecting the lives of the students, families, and schools we serve.
- **Collaborative Relationships:** TASP partners with allied organizations, agencies, and others to develop and achieve shared goals.
- **Continuous Improvement:** TASP sets challenging objectives and measures the effectiveness of organizational processes.
- **Diversity:** TASP embraces individual, cultural, and other contextual differences in our own interactions and as they shape students' development.
- **Excellence:** TASP promotes the highest standards for service delivery and resource deployment.
- **Integrity:** TASP is committed to honesty and to treating others with dignity and respect.
- **Student-Centered:** TASP supports goals and activities focused on the needs of students and their families.
- **Visionary Leadership:** TASP leads with enthusiasm and confidence, while working pragmatically in the present and striving toward an optimistic future.

# ADVOCACY PROCESS



# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Consider and reach out to key stakeholders and allies as genuine partners
- Emphasize the strengths of each group
- Mention the collaborative work with each other when talking publicly
- Keep the focus upon outcomes for kids and families
- Avoid whining, complaining, or competing with each other



# KEY MESSAGE GOALS

- Get their attention
- Connect to a priority
- Minimize suspicion/ reactive rejection
- Engage discussion
- Be easy to remember
- **Key messages can't convey everything**



# MAKE IT EASY FOR PEOPLE

- Lead with the point, restate the point, close with the point. (What is your “ask for?”)
- Keep students at the center.
- Be relevant (know your audience).
- Be concise. (Max 2-3 points)
- Avoid acronyms/technical language.
- Use bullets to the extent possible
- Resonate. Personalize your message.

# COMPLETE MESSAGE EXAMPLE

**Problem:** Student office referrals for interpersonal conflicts (student-student & student-teacher) are on the rise.

**Action:** Examining student data will help identify settings and situations where conflicts are occurring and which students are having the most difficulty.

**Benefit:** I can work with students to teach conflict resolution skills and work with teachers to respond to students in a way that de-escalates problems.

# WORKING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Prepare talking points and distribute handout/packet

Try to make a personal connection

**Listen. Listen. Listen!** Find out what issues your official is concerned about, and offer to help if appropriate.

Personalize your Story/Put a “face” on every issue

Invite elected officials to visit your school (Be sure and get permission.)

Offer to assist in writing and reviewing proposed testimony

Recognize the accomplishments of elected officials

Thank them for their time and service.



# INFLUENCING LEGISLATION

- **“Friend” or build a relationship w/an elected official or person of influence**
  - Garner his/her support for your issues
  - Request that they sponsor/support a bill or position
  - Support (share expertise) in the development of a bill
  - Support other legislative priorities of the official
- **Lobby for support of a bill by communicating with influential decision makers**
  - Advocate/Educate co-sponsors and committee members (Face to face meetings, phone calls, emails, letters, materials, testimony)
  - Help garner bi-partisan support
- **Activate grassroots networks to expand support for the bill**
  - Hill Day
  - Letter writing campaign
  - Written/Oral Testimony

# 85<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



# STATE BUDGET UPDATE

- Rainy Day Fund - \$9.8B
- Oil bust will cost Texas economy about \$1B/year.
- All state agencies told to cut their proposed budget by 4% (Foundation School Program exempt)
- Comptroller will announce state budget for 2018-19 biennium in November



# Priorities for Capitol Leadership for 85<sup>th</sup>

## **Gov. Abbott**

- Classroom Connectivity/ Broadband

## **Lt. Gov. Patrick**

- Gender Issues
- Property Tax Relief
- Vouchers

## **Speaker Straus**

- School Finance
- Foster Care
- TRSCare
- Mental Health



# Dates of Interest for 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature

- Nov. 1 – Sunset Publishes Recommendations for TSBEP
- Nov. 14 – First Day to Pre-File Legislation for 85<sup>th</sup>
- Dec. 8/9 – Sunset Public Hearing on TSBEP
- Jan. 10 – First Day of Legislative Session
- March 10 – Last Day to File Bills
- May 30 – **Sine Die (last day)**



# TASP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Rename licensure from LSSP to “School Psychologist”
- Proportionate Representation of LSSPs on TSBEP
- Allow LSSPs to practice in private schools
- Align State Law and Regulation for Practice to Reflect National Standards for the Practice of School Psychology
- LSSPs must have a conferred degree in School Psychology or a Re-Specialization Certification from a School Psychology Program
- Maintain the TSBEP
- Allow LSSPs to Practice in Private Clinics

# HOUSE PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Rep. Jimmie Don Aycok (Kileen)
- Rep. Alma Allen (Houston)
- Rep. Dwayne Bohac (Houston)
- Rep. Joe Deshotel (Houston)
- Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr. (Houston)
- Rep. Marsha Farney (Georgetown)
- Rep. Rick Galindo (San Antonio)
- Rep. Mary E. González (El Paso)
- Rep. Dan Huberty (Houston)
- Rep. Ken King (Canadian)
- Rep. Gary VanDeaver (New Boston)

# HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH

- Rep. Myra Crownover (Denton)
- Rep. Elliott Naishtat (Austin)
- Rep. César Blanco (El Paso)
- Rep. Garnet Coleman (Houston)
- Rep. Nicole Collier (Ft. Worth)
- Rep. Sarah Davis (West University Place)
- Rep. R. D. "Bobby" Guerra (McAllen)
- Rep. Rick Miller (Sugar Land)
- Rep. J. D. Sheffield (Gatesville)
- Rep. Bill Zedler (Arlington)
- Rep. John Zerwas (Richmond)



# SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

- Rep. Four Price (Amarillo)
- Rep. Joe Moody (El Paso)
- Rep. Greg Bonnen (Friendswood)
- Rep. Garnet Coleman (Houston)
- Rep. Sarah Davis (West. University Place)
- Rep. Rick Galindo (San Antonio)
- Rep. Sergio Muñoz, Jr. (Palmview)
- Rep. Andrew S. Murr (Junction)
- Rep. Toni Rose (Dallas)
- Rep. Kenneth Sheets (Dallas)
- Rep. Senfronia Thompson (Houston)
- Rep. Chris Turner (Arlington)
- Rep. James White (Hillister)

# SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Commission has five Senators, five Representatives, and two members of the public, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. The position of chair rotates between the House and the Senate every two years.

## Senate Members



**Van Taylor**  
**Vice Chair**  
2015 to 2019  
Plano



**Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa**  
2013 to 2017  
McAllen



**Robert Nichols**  
2015 to 2017  
Jacksonville



**Charles Schwertner**  
2013 to 2017  
Georgetown



**Kirk Watson**  
2015 to 2019  
Austin



**LTC (Ret.) Allen B. West**  
**Public Member**  
2015 to 2017

## House Members



**Larry Gonzales**  
**Chair**  
2013 to 2017  
Round Rock



**Cindy Burkett**  
2013 to 2017  
Sunnyvale



**Dan Flynn**  
2015 to 2019  
Van



**Richard Peña Raymond**  
2013 to 2017  
Laredo



**Senfronia Thompson**  
2015 to 2019  
Houston



**William Meadows**  
**Public Member**  
2015 to 2017

**Frequently Asked Questions about Sunset** >

**The Sunset Process** >

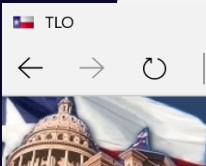
Learn about how Sunset works in Texas.

**Sunset Staff** >

**Past Commission Members**

View a list of previous Sunset Commission members.

# WHO REPRESENTS ME?



84th Legislature Regular Session  
**Texas Legislature Online**

Home

My TLO

House

Senate

Legislation

Search

Committees

Calendars

Help

FAQ

Site Map

Contact

Login

House: Adjourned sine die  
Senate: Adjourned sine die

**Texas House**

- [Home](#)
- [Speaker of the House](#)
- [Members](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Committee Meetings](#)
- [Committee Witnesses](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [Current Amendment](#)
- [Journals](#)
- [News](#)
- [House Research Organization](#)
- [Kids' House](#)

**Texas Senate**

- [Home](#)
- [Lieutenant Governor](#)
- [Members](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Committee Meetings](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [Journals](#)
- [News](#)
- [Senate Research Center](#)
- [Senate Kids](#)

**Search Legislation**

Legislature:

☐ Word/Phrase ☒ Bill Number

**Additional Searches**

[Text Search](#)

[Statutes](#)

[Bill Lookup](#)

[Constitution](#)

[Bill Search](#)

[Reports](#)

[Amendments](#)

[View Votes](#)

[Sections Affected](#)

[Administrative Code](#)

[Legislative Archive System](#)

**How Do I ...**

[Find list of filed bills?](#)

[Follow the status of a bill?](#)

[Contact my legislator?](#)

[Find how a legislator voted?](#)

[Find when hearings are scheduled?](#)

[View the text of a bill?](#)

[Testify at a House committee hearing?](#)

[more>>](#)

**My TLO**

[Track Legislation With Bill Lists](#)

[Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts](#)

[Subscribe to RSS Feeds](#)

[View Content on Mobile Device](#)

[Saved Bill, Text, Amendment Searches](#)

**Access Mobile Version of TLO**

Access a [mobile version](#) of TLO, Who Represents Me, and DistrictViewer on an iPhone, iPad, or other mobile device. From the mobile device browser, enter [www.txlegis.com](#). NOTE: Some applications or features within an application may not be accessible on all mobile devices.

**Legislative Activity**

Video Broadcasts: [House](#) | [Senate](#)


Today's Calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)

Today's Meetings: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)

Today's Filed Bills: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)

Today's Votes: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

**Legislative Process**



[How a Bill Becomes Law](#)

[How to Follow A Bill](#)

[Dates of Interest](#) | [Glossary](#)

[End of Session Deadlines](#)

**Who Represents Me?**

Enter your address to find [who represents you](#) in the legislature.


Address:

City:

ZIP Code:

[Redistricting](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

**Capitol Complex Information**



[Events and Visitor Information](#)

[Wireless Access](#) | [Images](#) | [State Symbols](#)

**Related Links**

[Legislative Reference Library](#)

[County](#) | [State](#) | [Federal](#) | [Awards](#)

[Policies](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Texas.gov](#) | [Homeland Security](#) | [Statewide Search](#)

# **ENGAGE ACTIVELY AND CONSISTENTLY WITH KEY POLICY DECISION MAKERS AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS**

- Building level
- District level
- State agency level
- State legislative level

# ACTION PLANNING