



Texas PTA, the largest child advocacy organization in the state with over 600,000 members, appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 3.

We appreciate the work done by Chairman Rob Eissler and by Chairwoman Florence Shapiro to develop the prototype for a new accountability system for Texas schools.

In particular we support:

- The inclusion of areas of distinction for schools and school districts in physical education programs and fine arts programs, something Texas PTA specifically asked for when areas of distinction were developed
- The addition of a broader array of career and technology courses to be eligible for the 3rd and 4th year of math and science
- The addition of an expanded list of math and science courses that a student may take under the Recommended High School Program
- Ending the 65 Percent Rule

Our concern with the bill, and the reason for a neutral position on HB 3, is the removal of any requirement for physical education and fine arts classes. Texas PTA supports efforts to educate the whole child. It is critically important that we continue to value and support fine arts and physical education as an integral part of a well-rounded education.

In particular, we are very concerned about the impact to students of the removal of the physical education/activity component because of the growing problem of youth obesity and its resultant increasing diagnoses of Type 2 Diabetes, a life-style related disease. We feel we must continue to emphasize the need for physical activity/education by requiring students to participate in a minimum amount of physical activity/education.

In closing, we again applaud the work of Chairman Eissler and Chairwoman Shapiro over the last two years to develop a new accountability system and look forward to continuing to work with each of them to fine tune the bill.