



Acronyms and Abbreviations

TASB acronyms and abbreviations	
AED: associate executive director	top director of a TASB service area
CEC: continuing education credit	training hours required of board members by TEA
CECRS: Continuing Education Credit Reporting Service	online repository service for tracking of continuing education hours completed
CEO: chief executive officer	in school settings, the superintendent
CFO: chief financial officer	district's top financial executive
CIO: chief information officer	top executive responsible for information technology and computer systems
Co-op: Local Government Purchasing Cooperative	membership-based service for cooperative purchasing; also called Cooperative, but not LGPC
CSA: Texas Council of School Attorneys	provides statewide forum on practical legal problems faced by local public schools and their attorneys
DLP: Digital Learning Pavilion	interactive example of a 21 st century classroom with a digital environment
EOB: explanation of benefits	statement from an insurance company explaining what treatment and/or services were paid on enrollee's behalf
ESS: Executive Search Services	assists districts with recruiting and selecting a chief executive officer or key administrator
GR: Governmental Relations	division that monitors legislative developments and promotes advocacy on behalf of its members
HR: Human Resources	department responsible for internal personnel issues
LAC: Legislative Advisory Council	merges regional priorities identified by school board members into a statewide list of legislative priorities
LAF: Legal Assistance Fund	supports districts that are defending legal challenges with potential to affect public schools
LSIP: Lone Star Investment Pool	group investing for government entities
LTASB: Leadership TASB	trains experienced board members for greater leadership roles
LTS: Leadership Team Services	program area that focuses on improving the effectiveness of school board leadership teams through training, planning, consulting, facilitation services, publications, and other resources
OLC: Online Learning Center	self-paced online courses
PIO: public information office	communications department of a governing body
P/L: property and liability	general term for insurance that covers buildings and other property, and covers the risk of liability against lawsuits
RM: risk management	practice of assessing, quantifying, and minimizing risk
SBAN: School Board Advocacy Network	enhances school board members' presence and advocacy in the legislative process
SBRM: School Board Recognition Month	celebrated in January
SLI: Summer Leadership Institute	June training event that includes sessions created specifically for new board members and board presidents
SMART: Site-Based Medicaid Administration, Reimbursement, and Tracking service	program to assist districts with Medicaid billing
SOB: schedule of benefits	statement of benefits and amount of coverage provided in a health insurance policy
SOTY: Superintendent of the Year	award program honoring outstanding administrators

TAN: Tax Anticipation Notes	short-term, tax-exempt notes for meeting current demands in anticipation of future tax revenues, similar to a line of credit
TASB: Texas Association of School Boards	a voluntary, nonprofit, statewide educational association that serves and represents local Texas school districts; established in 1949
TASB ISD: TASB Institute for School Trustee Development	series of basics courses designed for new board members
TCER: Texas Center for Educational Research	independent, nonprofit educational research organization established to study the major issues affecting all levels and areas of Texas public education
TLS: <i>Texas Lone Star</i> magazine	published 10 times per year and distributed free to TASB members
WC: workers' compensation	insurance that provides medical care for employees injured in the course of employment
WGLS: Winter Governance and Legal Seminar	annual training for board members and school districts
Education-related acronyms and abbreviations	
504: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	national law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs that receive federal financial assistance
AASA: American Association of School Administrators	professional organization for educational leaders
ABE: adult basic education	instruction in basic skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic designed to help adults function in society
ACM: asbestos containing material	material containing more than 1 percent asbestos
ACT: American College Test	widely used standardized test for college admissions
AD: academic decathlon	scholastic competition for teams of high school students
ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act	federal law that forbids discrimination based on disability and requires reasonable accommodations
ADA: average daily attendance	total number of days of attendance for all students divided by the total number of school days in a given period
AED: automated external defibrillator	small portable device for detecting an abnormal heart rhythm and applying electric shock
AEIS: Academic Excellence Indicator System	TEA's yearly report that aggregates wide range of information on performance of students in each school and district in Texas
AEP: alternative education program	alternative education setting for students temporarily removed from regular instructional setting for disciplinary purposes
AFT: American Federation of Teachers	education labor union
AG: attorney general	chief legal and law enforcement officer of Texas; charged by the state constitution to defend the laws and constitution of Texas, represent the state in litigation, and approve public bond issues
AHERA: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act	requires local education agencies to inspect their schools for asbestos-containing building material and prepare management plans to prevent or reduce asbestos hazards
AP: advanced placement	program for high school students sponsored by the College Board that includes specific class curriculum followed by testing that can lead to college credit
ARD: admission, review, and dismissal committee	responsible for making educational decisions for a special-education student
ASF: Available School Fund	used to support public education and distributed on per-capita basis to school districts

ATPE: Association of Texas Professional Educators	nonunion, member-owned, member-governed association
AYP: Adequate Yearly Progress	annual academic performance targets on standardized tests defined by No Child Left Behind
BE: bilingual education	teaching academic content in native and secondary languages
BRAVO: Building Resources and Vocational Opportunities	project in El Paso County that provides services to low-income residents
C&I: curriculum and instruction	a field within education that seeks to research, develop, and implement curriculum changes that increase student achievement within and outside of schools; focuses on how students learn and the best ways to educate them
CAD: county appraisal district	appraisal districts within each county that appraise property within the district
CAI: computer-assisted instruction	computer-based instruction
CEC: continuing education credit	credit hours earned by local school board members for completing accredited professional training required by Texas Education Code
CEC: Council for Exceptional Children	international professional organization that serves students with disabilities and students with gifts and talents
CEI: cost-of-education index	index that accounts for geographic or other cost differences beyond local school district control
CFR: Code of Federal Regulations	compilation of all U.S. federal regulations
CISD: consolidated independent school district	formed by the merging of two or more districts; also Cons ISD
CLEP: College-Level Examination Program	enables students to take exams to earn college credit for introductory-level courses
CNPIMS: Child Nutrition Programs Information Management System	data-collection system used to meet reimbursement requirements of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and After School Snack programs
COBRA: Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act	allows employees who lose health benefits the right to choose to continue group health benefits provided by the plan under certain circumstances
COLA: cost of living adjustment	annual adjustment in wages to offset a change—usually a loss—in purchasing power, as measured by the consumer price index
CPI: consumer price index	program that produces monthly data on changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services
CPI: Crisis Prevention Institute	training organization focusing on safe management of disruptive and assaultive behavior
CSA: Texas Council of School Attorneys	membership organization that provides statewide forum on practical legal problems faced by local public schools and their attorneys
CTE: career and technical education	programs dedicated to preparing students to manage the dual roles of family member and wage earner, enable students to gain entry-level employment in a high-skill, high-wage job and/or to continue their education
DAEP: disciplinary alternative education program	alternative education setting for students temporarily removed from regular instructional setting for disciplinary purposes
DAP: Distinguished Achievement Program	Texas high school graduation plan that requires completion of four advanced measures in addition to standard course requirements
DATE: District Awards for Teacher Excellence	noncompetitive state grant used to create or continue an award system for educators who are successful in improving student achievement
DE: distributive education	students receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training
DSHS: Texas Department of State Health Services	state agency charged with improving public health and well-being in Texas through planning, services, and regulation

EAP: employee assistance program	plan offered by an employer that helps employees identify and resolve issues through counseling and other services
EC: early childhood	period from birth to the start of school
ED: Department of Education	U.S. agency that governs education
EDA: Existing Debt Allotment	state program that provides assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying debt
EEOC: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	federal agency that enforces employment discrimination laws
ELA: English language arts	content area focused on developing students' English language skills through reading, writing, spelling, and oral communication
ELL: English language learner(s)	students with a first language other than English in the process of learning English
ELPS: English Language Proficiency Standards	state curriculum standards for English language learners
EMAT: Educational Materials and Textbook system	used by TEA to facilitate textbook ordering
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency	federal agency that oversees programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment
ERS: Employees Retirement System of Texas	administers retirement, health, and other insurance benefits for some state agency employees and others
ESC: education service center	20 regional centers that provide services and support to school districts
ESL: English as a second language	courses designed for students whose native language is not English
ESOL: English for speakers of other languages	courses designed for students whose native language is not English
ESY: extended school year; also called extended school year services	an individualized instructional program for eligible students with disabilities that are provided beyond the regular school year
ExCET: Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas	teacher certification test; replaced by Texas Examinations of Educator Standards through phase out beginning in 2002
FAPE: free appropriate public education	an educational right of children with disabilities in the U.S. that is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and IDEA
FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	federal statute that protects the privacy of personally identifiable information; allows adult students and parents to view student education records and request amendments
FIRST: Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas	requires each school district to submit an annual school management report that is reviewed by TEA, which then assigns financial management ratings
FLSA: Fair Labor Standards Act	federal statute that sets standards for minimum wage and overtime pay
FMLA: Family and Medical Leave Act	federal statute that allows employees extended leave from employment for specified family and medical reasons
FSP: Foundation School Program	state program that establishes the amount of funding provided to school districts under the Texas school finance system; meant to ensure that all school districts, regardless of property wealth, receive "substantially equal access to similar revenue per student at similar tax effort"
FTE: full-time equivalent	set number of working hours that represent one full-time employee during a fixed time period
FWTSBA: Far West Texas School Boards Association	represents 12 school districts in all of El Paso County and part of Hudspeth County, Region 19 ESC
GCAASB: Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards	represents the Texas Gulf Coast area, Region 4 ESC

GED: General Educational Development test	exam that determines high-school-level academic proficiency and awards a high-school-equivalency diploma
GPC: grade placement committee	determines whether a student without satisfactory achievement on a standard assessment may be promoted
G/T: gifted/talented	students identified as needing a higher level of academic challenge; Texas mandates that districts provide services for these students
HB: homebound	instructional arrangement for special-education students served at home or in a hospital
HB: House Bill	a bill first introduced in the House of Representatives
HCR: House Concurrent Resolution	legislative proposal introduced in the House that requires the approval of both houses but doesn't have the force of law; also H.Con.Res.
HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	federal standards that regulate the privacy of medical records
HJR: House Joint Resolution	legislative proposal passed by both houses and eligible to become law if signed by the chief executive; also H.J.Res.
HMO: health maintenance organization	health plan that contracts with providers to offer healthcare through a provider network headed by a patient's primary care physician who issues referrals for visits to specialists
HS: Head Start	federal education program for preschool children
HVAC: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning	system of indoor climate control
I&S tax rate: interest-and-sinking tax rate	also called the debt-service tax rate for its use to finance long-term debt associated with construction, renovation, and purchasing of property and equipment
IA: industrial arts	the study of manual and technical skills required to work with tools and machinery
IB: International Baccalaureate	an international educational foundation offering three educational programs for children ages 3–19; can refer to the organization itself, any of its three programs, or the diploma or certificates awarded at the end of the diploma program
IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	federal law requiring services for children with disabilities
IEP: Individualized Education Program	mandated by IDEA's specific plan that includes student goals and objectives, and explains a school's commitment to provide services to an eligible special education student
IFA: Instructional Facilities Allotment	state aid providing assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying bonds or lease-purchase agreements
IMA: instructional materials allotment	an annual allotment from the state instructional materials fund given to each district to purchase instructional materials, technological equipment, and technology-related services
IMF: Instructional Materials Fund	formerly Textbook Fund
IPM: integrated pest management	pest management designed to minimize use of pesticides
IRA: International Reading Association	international association to promote worldwide literacy
ISC: instructional skills class	curriculum for students with moderate disabilities that includes academic and developmental skills
ISD: independent school district	district that's independent and separate from any municipality, county, or state, and generally has its own taxing authority
ITV: instructional television	programming used to achieve educational objectives

JJAEP: Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program	county-operated alternative school setting for students expelled for dangerous or disruptive behavior; state mandated for counties with populations of at least 125,000
JROTC: Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps	training program sponsored by the U.S. Armed Forces for students in high school
LBB: Legislative Budget Board	a permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations for all agencies of state government and completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation
LDA: Learning Disabilities Association of America	organization of individuals with learning disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them, whose mission is to create opportunities for success for all individuals affected by learning disabilities and to reduce the incidence of learning disabilities in future generations
LEP: limited English proficient	students without sufficient English comprehension to succeed in English-only classrooms; replaced LESA—limited-English speaking ability
LESA: limited English speaking ability	replaced by limited English proficient
LFA: Local Fund Assignment	operations money a school district is required to raise
LIFE: Literacy Is for Everyone	organization that supports reading efforts
LOA: leave of absence	employer-approved time off
LRE: Least Restrictive Environment	places students with a disability, to the extent possible, in an education environment with nondisabled peers
M&O tax rate: maintenance-and-operations tax rate	school district property-tax rate that raises revenue to operate and maintain the district's schools
MASBA: Mexican American School Board Members Association	organization that represents minority, primarily Hispanic, board members and students in Texas
MSD: municipal school district	district not operated by an independent school board; Stafford only one in Texas
NABE: National Association for Bilingual Education	organization that advocates for English-language learners and education professionals
NAEP: National Assessment of Educational Progress	periodic continuing assessments of what American students know and can do in various subject areas; conducted by the U.S. Department of Education
NCLB: No Child Left Behind	federal legislation that requires a series of accountability measures for U.S. public schools
NEA: National Education Association	nation's largest professional employee organization committed to advancing the cause of public education
NIFA: New Instructional Facilities Allotment	state aid for school district operational expenses related to building new facilities
NMSQT: National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test	standardized test that's combined with the PSAT and determines eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program
NSBA: National School Boards Association	represents state school board associations and their member districts across the U.S.
NSPRA: National School Public Relations Association	provides training and resources regarding school public relations
NTAASB: North Texas Area Association of School Boards	represents school boards in North Texas, ESC Regions 10 and 11
NTSBA: Northeast Texas School Boards Association	represents school boards in Northeast Texas, Region 8 ESC

OCR: Office for Civil Rights	division of the U.S. Department of Education that investigates and enforces civil rights to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation
OM: Odyssey of the Mind	worldwide student team competition; also known as OotM
OMA: Open Meetings Act	state statute requiring governmental decision-making meetings to be open to the public; also called Texas Open Meetings Act
OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration	federal agency that enforces safety and health legislation
PAASB: Panhandle Area Association of School Boards	represents school boards in the Panhandle, Region 16 ESC
PBMAS: Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System	automated data system that reports annually on the performance of Texas school districts in selected program areas
PBSBA: Permian Basin School Boards Association	represents school boards in the Permian Basin, Region 18 ESC
PDAS: Professional Development and Appraisal System	state system of appraising teachers and identifying areas that would benefit from staff development; formerly Texas Teacher Appraisal System
PEG: Professional Educators Group	introductory membership into the Texas branch of the American Federation of Teachers
PEG: Public Education Grant	state program that allows parents to request an out-of-district transfer from certain preidentified schools
PEIMS: Public Education Information Management System	state database of information gathered from Texas public schools required by state and federal law
PGP: personal graduation plan	identifies goals, strategies, expectations, and methods to encourage graduation in struggling students
PIA: Public Information Act	Texas statute that allows citizens to request government records
PIC: Private Industry Council	career development organization
PIO: public information office	department that oversees communication for an organization
PPO: preferred provider organization	health plan that contracts with providers to offer healthcare through a preferred provider network
PSAT: Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test	standardized test that's combined with the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and gives students practice before taking the SAT
PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test	full name of the PSAT
PSF: Permanent School Fund	trust fund created by the Texas Constitution and made up of revenue from land sales and leases on offshore oil lands and other mineral holdings
PTA: Parent-Teacher Association	formal organization made up of parents, teachers, and staff that is intended to facilitate parental participation in students' education
PTO: Parent-Teacher Organization	see PTA
PTSA: Parent-Teacher-Student Association	see PTA
QSCB: Qualified School Construction Bond	allows schools to borrow for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of a public school facility, or for the acquisition of land for a facility
R1SBA: Region 1 School Boards Association	represents school boards in far south Texas, Region 1 ESC
RACM: Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material	material that contains more than 1 percent asbestos and is friable
RADA: refined average daily attendance	total of all students' days of attendance, divided by number of days taught for all six-week periods in a school year, divided by six, and rounded to three decimal places

RFP: request for proposal	invitation for suppliers to bid for the opportunity to provide a good or service
RHSP: Recommended High School Program	standard curriculum for Texas public high school students
RIF: reduction in force	planned decrease in work force; also called a layoff
ROTC: Reserve Officers' Training Corps	college-based program that trains students for commissioned officer positions; sponsored by U.S. Armed Forces
SAC: special assignment classroom	classroom for students completing in-school suspension
SAS: Standard Application System	used by TEA for grant applications
SAT: standardized test for college admissions	originally stood for Scholastic Aptitude Test; changed to Scholastic Assessment Test in 1990; changed in 1993 to SAT I: Reasoning Test (with the letters not standing for anything) to distinguish it from the SAT II: Subject Tests; roman numerals on both tests were dropped in 2004, and SAT I was renamed the SAT Reasoning Test; and scoring categories are now critical reading (comparable to some of the verbal portions of the old SAT I), mathematics, and writing
SB: Senate Bill	piece of proposed legislation that either originated or was modified in the Senate
SBAN: School Board Advocacy Network	legislative liaisons representing every school district in Texas; created by TASB to enhance local school boards' presence in the legislative process
SBEC: State Board for Educator Certification	oversees all aspects of the preparation, certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct for public school educators in Texas
SBOE: State Board of Education	elected 15-member board overseeing public education in Texas
SCE: state compensatory education	program and/or services that supplement the regular education for students identified as drop-out risks
SCR: Senate Concurrent Resolution	legislative proposal introduced in the Senate that requires approval of both houses but doesn't have the force of law; also S.Con.Res.
SEDL: Southwest Educational Development Laboratory	education research organization that no longer uses its full name; formally changed its name to SEDL in 2007
SHAC: School Health Advisory Council	mandated by Texas law, a council is appointed by each district to give advice on school health programs and their effect on student health and learning
SHARS: School Health and Related Services	Medicaid financing program that allows school districts to obtain reimbursement for health-related services provided to students in special education
SJR: Senate Joint Resolution	legislative proposal passed by both houses and eligible to become law if signed by the chief executive; also S.J.Res.
SNASBMA: Sabine-Neches Administrators and School Board Members Association	represents school boards in Sabine-Neches, Region 5 ESC
SPED: special education	educational and social services provided to individuals with disabilities; also SpecEd or SpEd
SPSBA: South Plains School Boards Association	represents school boards in the South Plains, Region 17 ESC
SR: Senate Resolution	simple resolution initiated in the Senate that addresses matters within the Senate; also S.Res.
SREB: Southern Regional Education Board	nonprofit group founded by the governors and legislators of 16 southern states to improve teaching, learning, and student achievement
SSIG: Student Success Initiative Grant	state funding to assist districts with students identified as at risk for academic difficulties in reading and math

STAAR™: State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness	replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills assessment beginning in the 2011–12 school year
STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics initiative	focused education that integrates these four disciplines into one field of study
T-IIA: Title II, Part A	federal grant to increase student academic achievement through teacher and principal training and recruiting; also Title IIA
TAAS: Texas Assessment of Academic Skills	precursor to Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills; used 1991–2002
TABS: Texas Assessment of Basic Skills	first standardized assessment test for Texas students; used 1980–85
TAC: Texas Administrative Code	compilation of all state agency rules in Texas
TAC: Texas Association of Counties	association representing county government bodies
TACS: Texas Association of Community Schools	represents school districts with no more than one high school
TAFCS: Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences	state association of family and consumer science professionals
TAFT: Texas American Federation of Teachers	formerly known as Texas Federation of Teachers; represents all nonadministrative certified and classified public school employees in traditional public schools and some charter schools
TAGT: Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented	organization of educators and parents supporting gifted and talented students
TAIR: Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading	represents literacy educators
TAKS: Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills	standardized assessment test for Texas students; used 2003–11
TAPE: Texas Association of Partners in Education	network of volunteers, community members, and businesses aimed at increasing student success
TASA: Texas Association of School Administrators	represents school administrators and support personnel
TASBO: Texas Association of School Business Officials	represents professionals involved in the business operation of schools
TASN: Texas Association for School Nutrition	represents school food-service employees; formerly known as Texas School Food Service Association
TASP: Texas Academic Skills Program	designed to assess a student’s college readiness and provide developmental instruction if needed; replaced by the Texas Success Initiative in 2003
TASPA: Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators	represents school human resources administrators and support staff
TASSP: Texas Association of Secondary School Principals	represents high school and middle level principals
TBEC: Texas Business and Education Coalition	network of business and education leaders working together to improve education
TCBSBM: Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members	nonprofit organization that speaks on behalf of quality education for African Americans in the state of Texas
TCTA: Texas Classroom Teachers Association	nonunion association with strong lobbying activities that represents classroom teachers
TDSHS: Texas Department of State Health Services	see DSHS
TxDOT: Texas Department of Transportation	state agency responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, inspecting, and regulating state transportation

TEA: Texas Education Agency	state agency responsible for public education
TEC: Texas Education Code	state laws governing education in Texas
TECAT: Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers	teacher certification exam used 1986–2000
TEKS: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills	state curriculum standards that outline expected knowledge in each subject area
TELPAS: Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System	assessment program for English language learners in K–12
TEPSA: Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association	represents elementary and middle school principals and supervisors
TExES: Texas Examinations of Educator Standards	criterion-referenced teacher certification test; replaced the Examinations for the Certification of Educators in Texas through a phase out that began in 2002
TFA: Texas Forensic Association	provides competition in speech, debate, and drama for high school students
TFT: Texas Federation of Teachers	former name of the Texas branch of the American Federation of Teachers union; called Texas AFT since 2007
THEA®: Texas Higher Education Assessment	assessment tool to determine college readiness
THECB: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	provides leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system
TIAA: Texas Industrial Arts Association	provides competition for students in the industrial arts
TML: Texas Municipal League	provides services to meet the needs of and advocate for Texas cities
TOMA: Texas Open Meetings Act	state statute requiring governmental decision-making meetings to be open to the public; also called Open Meetings Act
TRS: Teacher Retirement System of Texas	established to serve the needs of Texas public education employees; created a statewide teacher retirement system; responsible for investing funds under its stewardship and for delivering benefits to members as authorized by the Texas Legislature
TRS-Care: Teacher Retirement System of Texas Care	group retiree health benefits program administered by TRS
TSA: Texas Society of Architects	state component of the American Institute of Architects; is the voice for Texas architecture, supporting the creation of safe, beautiful, sustainable environments
TSI: Texas Success Initiative	state-legislated program designed to assess a student's college readiness and provide developmental instruction if needed to improve success in college; replaced Texas Academic Skills Program in 2003
TSPRA: Texas School Public Relations Association	organization that offers professional development, resources, and networking; dedicated to promoting public schools through effective communication
TSTA: Texas State Teachers Association	teachers' organization affiliated with the National Education Association
T-STEM: Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics initiative	see STEM
TTAS: Texas Teacher Appraisal System	past system of appraising teachers; replaced by Professional Development and Appraisal System
TWC: Texas Workforce Commission	state agency responsible for work-force development services
UIL: University Interscholastic League	created by The University of Texas to provide academic, athletic, and music competitions for high school students
WADA: weighted average daily attendance	finance formula that takes into account the cost of educating students with additional needs