



Frequently Asked Questions about the TASB Advocacy Institute Stipend Program

What is the Advocacy Institute?

The Advocacy Institute is an annual conference held in Washington, DC for school board trustees. Perfectly timed at the beginning of a new session of Congress, Advocacy Institute members have the opportunity to set the education agenda for the coming year.

What is the TASB Advocacy Institute Stipend Program?

The goal of the TASB Advocacy Institute Stipend Program is to have one trustee from each of the 36 congressional districts in Texas attend the national conference in Washington, DC February 6 – 8 2018. The stipend pays the cost of registration for the Advocacy Institute only.

Who is eligible for the Stipend?

The school district's board of trustees must be an active member of TASB to qualify for the program.

How is a trustee selected to receive the stipend?

Each school board will be responsible for nominating a trustee that best meets the following criteria:

- Previous attendance at the NSBA Advocacy Institute;
- Participation in and/or graduation from Leadership TASB;
- Participation in TASB's Delegate Assembly;
- Participation in TASB's Grassroots; or
- Service on the TASB Legislative Advisory Committee, the TASB Board of Directors, or the board of any TASB affiliated entity.

Can a school board also nominate an alternate?

Yes. In the event that the board's nominee is not able to fulfill their obligation to attend the Advocacy Institute, the school board may nominate one or two alternates.

What is the process to nominate a trustee for consideration of the stipend?

A nomination form is available on the TASB Governmental Relations website (gr.tasb.org). Download the form, fill out the information and e-mail it to frn@tasb.org before the deadline.

When is the deadline to submit nominees for the 2018 Advocacy Institute Stipend?

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, September 29, 2017.

If a trustee receives a stipend, do they still have to register for the conference?

Yes. All stipend recipients must register for the conference.

How is a stipend used to pay for the Advocacy Institute registration fee?

The stipend recipient's school district must pay the Advocacy Institute registration fee to NSBA, and TASB will reimburse the school district for that fee only.

When will recipients know they have been selected to receive a stipend?

Notifications will be sent out the first week of October. Recipients will have until November 3, 2017 to confirm their acceptance of a stipend. Those not able to attend the Advocacy Institute will void their stipend, and the stipend will be awarded to the alternate from the same school district.

If a trustee receives the stipend, can other trustees from the same district attend the Advocacy Institute without a stipend?

Yes. The conference is open to all current school board trustees and administrators. However, only the selected nominee – or the board’s alternate – may receive the stipend.

Does TASB GR make hotel and flight reservations for stipend recipients?

No. Advocacy Institute registration, hotel, and flight reservations are the responsibility of each trustee.

How can trustees make appointments with their members of Congress?

TASB Governmental Relations will provide a spreadsheet of congressional office scheduling assistant phone numbers and e-mail addresses. It has been our experience that a phone call directly from the trustee receives priority over one from the association.

Does TASB offer continuing education credit for attending the Advocacy Institute?

Yes. Several of the breakout sessions and seminars are eligible for continuing education credits.

For more information, please feel free to contact Rubén Longoria with TASB Governmental Relations at ruben.longoria@tasb.org.