











## SESSION DESCRIPTORS

*Sessions at WGLS are primarily for school board members, and most topics are appropriate for ALL audience types and experience levels unless noted for newly elected school trustees in their first year of service.*

**The following topic notations have been added at the end of each descriptor to provide attendees with a quick glimpse of the session's focus. Also noted are which sessions will be presented by TASB staff.**

-  District Culture
-  Engagement and Advocacy
-  Fiscal Responsibility
-  Policy and Legal
-  Student Achievement
-  Student Voice
-  Visionary Team
-  TASB Staff Presentation

### Board Officers' Academy (BOA): The "You Decide" Preconference

This preconference is going to be designed with your help. You can choose from several topics, all listed below. When you preregister for the session, you will rank your top three sessions from the list of options. The top two sessions selected by the group will be presented at the BOA Preconference.  

- **Legal and Governance Answers to Common Questions About Board Officers:** A TASB attorney and governance consultant will answer common questions about being a board officer.
- **Important Tools for Meeting Preparation:** This session will introduce an agenda calendar and a customizable background information form for agenda items.
- **Successfully Working with Challenging Individuals:** Trustees deal with all kinds of people, and sometimes those people can be difficult. Learn quick strategies to understand and work with challenging people.
- **Effectively Engaging Your Community:** Learn how to improve the exchange of information within your community and create a positive relationship.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20


**4–6:30 p.m.**

**Regiception** will automatically be added to agenda for Thursday–Saturday attendees. Attendees can pick up their packets, grab a snack, and listen to music by Clear Creek ISD students.

### Preconference Sessions

**5–8:30 p.m.**

#### Newly Elected Board Members: Orientation to the Texas Education Code

Orientation to the Texas Education Code (TEC) is required for all newly elected or appointed school board members in Texas. The purpose of this training is to provide new board members with an overview of the structure of the TEC and important information found in the code. This training will provide insight into the laws that govern public education in the state of Texas. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore the portions of the TEC related to the roles and responsibilities of school trustees and superintendents. 

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**7–8 a.m.**

**Breakfast** will automatically be added to agenda for Thursday–Saturday attendees.

**8–9:15 a.m.**

**General Session** will automatically be added to agenda for Thursday–Saturday attendees.

**9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

**In-Depth Sessions** (Choose one.)

### All Audiences

#### The Why Behind Resistance

This session will examine the humanness of the change process. Walk away with strategies to facilitate managing changes (i.e., loss, mandates, program changes, etc.) that confront rural educators, families, and students every day. Learn about the seven dynamics of change, habits, transitions, endings and losses, and resistance to change. This research-based information is intended to help participants facilitate

change in their schools, districts, and communities and is applicable to staff, students, and anyone who deals with the one sure thing in life—change! *This session is designed specifically for small and rural schools.* 🧑🏫

## Board Officers

### Practical Parliamentary Procedures

Become part of the action in this engaging session. You will step into a meeting as you learn how to appropriately use parliamentary procedures to turn your school board meetings into the efficient, civil, decision-making events you only dreamed were possible. A presiding officer and all trustees don't need to know every detail of Robert's Rules of Order to manage meetings effectively. This session reviews the basics of the rules that apply to boards, covers strategies for moving on when discussion bogs down, and tells you how to handle challenges to the process. A must for new board officers or anyone who hopes to be one someday. Be ready to get involved in this learning experience! (Board Officers' Academy) 🧑🏫 ★

OR

9:30–10:45 a.m.

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### Now That You're Elected

Are you a new trustee? Now that you've been sworn in, let's talk about what your role is and is not, the many changes you can expect, and some tips to help you be an effective member of the team you just joined. This session will help you learn the ropes and provide a foundation for your work as a trustee. 🧑🏫 ★

### School Board Governance: A Behind-the-Scenes Look

School boards are entrusted by the public to translate the needs of students into policies, plans, and goals that are supported by their communities. In this session, learn how the H-E-B Excellence in Education 2017 Board of the Year and 2018 Top Large District, Fort Bend ISD's (Region 4 ESC; 71,952 ADA) board, earned the trust of its community through strategic planning and engagement. Find out how they transformed a dysfunctional system into an award-winning school district. 🗨️

### Recruiting and Retaining Quality Teachers

Considerable research points to the effect quality instruction has on student learning. Still, in many parts of the state, districts experience challenges in recruiting and retaining instructional staff. What can your district do to attract and retain the best? This session will discuss best practices in recruiting and retention and outline what board members can do to support administrative efforts. 🧑🏫

### How to Have a Successful Bond Election

Learn how Aubrey ISD (Region 11 ESC; 2,316 ADA) successfully passed the largest bond in the district's history. Attendees will be able to implement a system to create a successful bond election experience and meet the needs of students and the community. Through discussion, visuals, and presentation of information, participants will gain a thorough understanding of an effective bond process. 💰

### Disciplining Students with Disabilities: The Big Picture

Disciplining students with disabilities requires a superstar cast that is knowledgeable about the law and local policies and procedures. This entertaining and informative presentation will guide participants through the legal requirements of special education discipline. The experienced presenters will provide information regarding the law's nuances, along with practical scenarios taken from "reel" life to allow you to test your knowledge and skills. Bring your popcorn and consider this your casting call! 🎬  
*Presented by conference sponsors Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle, P.C.*

### Elevate Learning with Ed-Spec-Driven School Design

What are "ed specs" and why do they matter when it comes to designing your next facility? Come learn how educational specifications define learning spaces, help contain costs, and provide a roadmap for success. 💰  
*Presented by conference sponsor Claycomb Associates Architects*

### The Superintendent Search Process

TASB Executive Search Services staff will present the elements of the superintendent search process that includes the board's involvement, advantages of using an external consultant, responsibilities of a consultant, and board members' perspectives. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about the search process. 🧑🏫 ★

**11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **Building Community, Industry, and Multi-District Career and Technical Partnerships**

Longview ISD's (Region 7 ESC; 7,930 ADA) East Texas Advanced Manufacturing Academy was formed through the local needs of industry partners, four local school districts, two colleges, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation of Longview. Hear how all the partners came together to form an academy that will provide a pipeline of workers for the local economy in the future. 🗨️

### **Focus on Student Health**

The school board plays an important role in supporting student health by establishing policies and programs focused on physical and mental well-being. In this session, a TASB Legal Services attorney and a TASB Policy Service consultant will address several hot topics: immunizations, administration of medication (including EpiPen and naloxone), the school health advisory council, health emergencies, and mental health and counseling issues. 🏠 ★

### **Nuts-and-Bolts Governance for Student Achievement**

Is anyone looking for a practical and simple discussion on governance as it relates to student achievement? Maybe even a simple checklist? No frills here, just straightforward examples of district goals and monitoring instruments and plans to help keep track of those goals. We've heard and learned a lot regarding governance and oversight that maximizes student performance. Let's take a closer look at how that translates into reality. 🗨️ ★

### **Aligned Focus on Student Learning Outcomes**

Come hear the experiences of trustees and administrators from Natalia ISD (Region 20 ESC, 976 ADA) and Region 20 ESC coaches in implementing Lone Star Governance with fidelity. An increase in strong board governance provides a foundation of student learning goals that are specific, measurable, and hold the system accountable for continuous improvement for now and in the future. 🗨️

### **Women in Leadership: Encouragement for Today and Inspiration for Tomorrow**

More women are running for office and achieving high levels of success; however, research indicates that some women still lack confidence and hesitate to speak up in meetings. In this workshop, you will hear strategies and tips to increase confidence and inspire the young women in your sphere of influence. 👥

### **PTOs and Booster Clubs: The Good, the Bad, and the Dangerous**

Do you know what your PTA, PTO, and booster organizations should and should not be providing to your campus? Should you or other school personnel play an active role in those organizations? When did you last see the group's bylaws? With all the funding cuts that schools have been taking for years, the help of parent or community organizations can prove invaluable, but there are rules that need to be followed by the organizations and your district personnel. This presentation will review district policy provisions governing these organizations and other guidance to help you prevent legal problems with your parent and community support organizations and ensure that they are operating for the full benefit of the students and the district. 🏠

*Presented by conference sponsors Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle, P.C.*

### **Safety and Student Engagement**

Join this engaging and informative session to learn how Eanes ISD (Region 13 ESC, 7,737 ADA) leveraged the power of the tiny, inexpensive Apple TV toward school safety and student engagement. From security alerts to projection, collaboration, and engagement, Apple TV has helped our schools stay safe and our students engaged and collaborating. Walk away with concrete ideas to help you get started or expand your use of Apple TVs in the classroom. 👥  
*Brought to Winter Governance by conference sponsor Apple.*


**12:15–1:15 p.m.**

**Lunch** will automatically be added to agenda for Thursday-Saturday attendees.

1:30–4:15 p.m.

**In-Depth Session** (Choose one.)

### **Sustaining Small Districts: Perspectives, Decision Making, and Strong Communities**

This session will speak to understanding multiple perspectives, decision-making roles and rural collaboratives. In spite of our many similarities as human beings, we often notice and focus on the differences in the way we see and do things. When learning something, it often helps to experience it rather than just hear or read about it. We will share an example of rural collaboration and how rural districts help each other and build capacity to positively impact students and community. This session is designed specifically for small and rural schools. 

OR

1:30–2:45 p.m.


**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **Democracy in Action: Balancing State and Local Governance**

Locally elected boards of education exemplify the purest form of democracy. However, school boards exist as a creation by state legislatures. Texas school boards operate on a dual-grant of authority from local voters and the state. This structure maintains ongoing tension between the interests of the state and the needs of local communities. Explore the importance of this tension and consider ways to retain balance and best serve the students in your district.

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### **Getting Started with a One-to-One Technology Program: The Inside Scoop**

Participants will gain insight into the process for starting a one-to-one technology program based on the experience of Lyford CISD (Region 1 ESC; 1,428 ADA) elementary, middle, and high schools. In addition, you'll hear firsthand from students how they learn differently, how their teachers teach differently, and how technology has changed their schools. 


*Brought to Winter Governance by conference sponsor Apple.*

### **Ten Commandments of Closed Meetings**


Thou shalt not miss this presentation! This advanced open government session with a TASB Legal Services attorney focuses on closed-meeting questions, including required postings, appropriate topics, when to hold a grievance appeal in closed session,

and confidentiality. Make sure your board has these closed-meeting procedures carved in stone.  ★


### **Data Analysis: Finding the Value in Data**

Education leaders often strive to make data-informed decisions, but data must be interpreted to gain meaning. Learn how to strengthen your interpretation skills to become a better consumer of data. Come to test your assumptions, learn new terms and techniques, and practice asking data-informed questions about student achievement. **Be sure to bring a device (laptop, tablet, or phone), as this session partially takes place in TASB's Online Learning Center, where you'll be given access to materials and resources to take you beyond the live session.** *Due to the design of this session, it will be limited to 25 participants.*  ★


### **To Help Your Students Go Far, Think F.A.S.T.**

Making decisions as a governing body can be challenging because of a variety of factors. In this course, you will learn how focusing, aligning, stretching, and tracking (F.A.S.T.) can help your board and superintendent pay attention to your most important job—student achievement. Come to this session only if you want tools to help your governance team direct their energy on what is truly important. (Board Officers' Academy)  ★

### **Dual Credit and Early College High Schools: Positively Affecting Student Achievement**

Earning college credit is a popular pursuit for high school students—a path that is encouraged by the TEA, legislators, and parents. For college-bound students, potential positive outcomes include exposure to higher-level concepts, improved self-confidence, and reduced college time and cost. Upward enrollment trends indicate generally positive signs of success; however, arising unintended consequences of negative student outcomes must be identified and addressed by districts to ensure benefits for all Texas students. 

### **Understanding Data to Impact Student Outcomes: Developing District and Board Goals**

Participants will be introduced or reintroduced to the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and how the data can assist in developing and monitoring board, district, and superintendent goals. Attendees will also learn about an accountability dashboard that provides insight into a district's Accountability rating. 

### A How-To for Teacher Housing

Teacher housing: Is there a need in your district? What is the benefit for a district to provide housing for staff? Are there concerns or restrictions that should be addressed? For districts throughout Texas, attracting and retaining teachers is a major concern, and district-provided teacher housing is one way to address this issue. Learn more about these projects, what other districts are doing to deal with the issue, and what factors you should consider before moving forward. 👥 ★

3–4:15 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### Five Conversations for the High-School-to-College Transition

Experienced board members and higher education professionals will share their perspective on the high-school-to-college transition and identify strategies to improve the process for students in your district. Participants will be able to analyze and discuss theoretical case studies related to the transition. 🎓

### Addressing Safety and Security in Your Schools

The safety and security of students and staff in our schools is a primary concern for every school district. Is your district doing all it can to provide the safest environment possible? Understanding the history, recent developments, and challenges of providing this safe and secure environment with limited resources is an issue for every school district. Learn more about evaluating your facilities, what other districts are doing to deal with the issue, and what your options are moving forward. 👥 ★

### What Makes a Good Board Chair?

As a board chair/president, it's imperative that you understand your role and responsibilities because often times, how you lead determines whether or not your team is able to govern well. Using the eight principles outlined in Harvard Business Review, a panel will discuss how to be an effective board chair. Come prepared to learn what it takes to lead your board and leave with tangible steps you can take back to help better support your district. 🌀

### Legal Update

This interactive session with TASB Legal Services attorneys will provide an overview of new laws and court decisions affecting school finance, student issues, personnel, governance, and more. Join the fun and games as we update your school law knowledge. 🏛️ ★

### Going Beyond the Requirements: Increasing College and Career Readiness

United ISD (Region 1 ESC; 40,321 ADA) has gradually implemented a program of preparation for grades 3–12 to increase the number of college acceptances and scholarships. Break into groups and reflect on how your district might use nine different grade opportunities to increase student achievement and school progress, close gaps, and dramatically increase English and math proficiency while raising test scores. Learn what a high-performing district is doing to earn Designated Postsecondary Readiness Distinction, as outlined by TEA. By implementing this program, United ISD has seen an average increase in SAT scores by 140 points and ACT scores by 3 points. Come learn how your district can do the same! 🎓

### A Musical Look at the School Board

Tired of the same old discussion about board member roles and responsibilities? We are taking a serious topic and making it fun and engaging! Take a break, put on your dancing shoes, and join us for a discussion of school board service through the lens of music, past and present. ★

### Meet the Kids, the Culture, and the School Where They Are

Through experience, we have come to understand that we cannot grow something where there's no foundation. The idea is to provide the foundation and understanding necessary to improve student success. In this presentation by Klein ISD you will hear recommendations on advocacy in resource-constrained communities. We cannot advocate if we don't understand the root cause of the challenges that we are encountering. We can provide tools on how we might pull the layers back to see what's really plaguing the young people we are tasked with educating. 💬

**Reception** will automatically be added to agenda for Thursday–Saturday attendees.

Grab a snack, visit with new friends, and enjoy the music of Judson ISD students.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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**7–8 a.m.**

**Breakfast** will automatically be added to attendee's agenda.

**8–9:15 a.m.**

**General Session** will automatically be added to attendee's agenda.

**10:30–11:15 a.m. and 3–3:30 p.m.**


**Students Inspired** will automatically be added to attendee's agenda.

**NEW!** In addition to students presenting and co-presenting sessions, we've added an opportunity for students to lead hands-on activities in an informal, exhibit-style setting. Information about the exhibits and schools represented will be included in the on-site program. Refreshments included. Entertainment provided by Caldwell ISD's Jazz Ensemble.

**9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**

**All-Day Session** (Choose one.)

### **Building Community Together: A Dialogue with Students**

This interactive session will provide a series of activities designed to facilitate a deep discussion on student experience. As the day progresses, the session will create opportunities for participants to discuss how assumptions and biases impact decision-making and leadership. The session will begin to facilitate connections between policy and student experience. Participants should come with an open heart and mind, ready to learn from and with colleagues and students. 


**OR**

**9:30–10:30 a.m.**


**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **Small School Speech + Debate Programs = College Readiness**


Skills gained from a speech and debate program translate directly to college readiness—just ask students from Banquete ISD. Small- or large-district students shouldn't miss out on the opportunity; it's not out-of-reach to even the smallest schools. Hear how your district can grow a program good enough

to qualify students for state and national competitions. The district superintendent has implemented the same program at schools in districts of all sizes, from 1A to 5A, with similar results. 


### **Character Matters in Building School Climate and Culture**

Harlingen High School in Harlingen CISD has enjoyed enormous districtwide support working on creating a positive culture and climate with a focus on character. Students will share what has made their quest to make kindness normal a huge success! 


### **Censorship of Student Journalists and the Student-Led "New Voices" Movement**

The role of journalism and journalists in our democracy is needed now more than ever. The love of reporting the news—and the truth—can be instilled in high-school students when scholastic journalism programs are fully supported. The students of Judson ISD's The Fuel want to share the influence scholastic journalism has had on their lives and the need for strong programs across the state to ensure that we develop positive members of society. 

### **Take Kindness to the Next Level**

The students at McAllen ISD's Memorial High School have expanded the "The Great Kindness Challenge" week to a yearlong initiative that includes bringing the whole school together for an acceptance/anti-bullying video and several activities that generate a feeling of safety and promote a positive school culture. The Challenge alone allows your schools and districts to become "Kindness Certified," so let's create a climate of acceptance, care, and friendliness in our schools by taking it to the next level! 

### **The Power of Student Voice and Civic Engagement**

Come and hear about a Carrol ISD student's advocacy work at the local, state, and national level, including a Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) State Service Project centered on human trafficking and a separate NASSP Global Citizenship initiative to educate students from across the nation on the power of student voice and civic engagement. Attendees will be able to take away a sense of motivation to create a climate and culture in their districts that is inclusive and supportive of student voice and initiatives. Additionally, attendees will learn about the importance of student council and how it can transform a campus. 

### **Increasing Mental Wellness and Student Potential**

Mental health is a highly relevant topic, and increasing numbers of mental disorders are being documented in schools. While most youth are physically and emotionally healthy, increasing numbers of young people experience emotional, mental, or behavioral disorders, and suicide rates are on the rise. Keller ISD students are proposing we make our schools a safer place by meeting the challenge of mental wellness and enabling our students to reach their full potential. Attendees will learn ways to meet the daily mental wellness of students, see the results of current attempts of some schools who are focusing on mental wellness, and find out how a district can work toward better mental wellness of its students. 🍏

### **Our Voice, Our School**

High school is a stepping stone for bigger things—for life. Kids aren't always excited about going to school; however, when they know they have options and are having an impact on decisions about their school and courses, school becomes meaningful. The legacy Beeville ISD students are leaving is driven by students with a highly supportive administration. We are laying the foundation for future generations, transforming students into bold, innovative leaders. 🍏

### **Inspire Students in Your District**

Midlothian ISD students will spotlight what they do to serve their community and school, including ringing bells for the Salvation Army, volunteering at Miracle League, and hosting school dances to raise money for scholarships. Join this interactive, fun-filled session filled with conversations and activities to help you motivate your students to connect with one another and your community on a deeper level. 🍏

**11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **RISE Mentor Program: Bringing Students and Community Members Together**

This session will provide an overview of Willis ISD's long-term Mentor Program involving 6th–12th grade students partnered with community volunteers. Students in the program will provide testimonials about the positive impact having a mentor has made in their lives and will answer questions from audience members. The process of starting a mentor program, recruiting, training, and sustaining mentors will also be addressed. 🍏

### **Awareness Awaits: Suicide Prevention in Schools**

Founded in 2016, the Awareness Awaits project brings awareness to high school students and faculty about the leading causes of suicide, victims' viewpoints, statistics, and available support like prevention hotlines. The program also shines light on current problems, such as social media platforms and how today's generation perceives suicide. Students are from Teague ISD. 🍏

### **STEM: Students Transforming Education Masterfully**

Students from Alief ISD will share various problem-based learning projects that are TEKS driven and passion inspired. Learn how students collaborated with their peers and teachers to engineer, advocate, empower, and inspire change on campus, within the district and community. Students will share real-world learning experiences that have transformed their education.

### **Promoting Inclusion and Celebrating Differences with Fitness**

The Samuel Clemens Unified Sports and Inclusion Program is designed for students of all ages, both typically developing as well as those with intellectual or physical disabilities, to partner and participate in activities that focus on interactive, inclusive, and fun opportunities that increase acceptance and awareness of each student's unique strengths and talents while supporting fitness, disability awareness, academic achievement, and sports-related training. Learn from Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD how your district can implement inclusive environments. Learning activities to be addressed involve disability awareness, modified fitness/skill assessments, extra-curricular activities, and definitions of the individual classroom environments where the program has been implemented. 🍏

### **Why Your District Needs Stronger Student Councils**

Bastrop ISD's presentation on interactive skill building provides participants with the knowledge to set a precedent for students in their districts, in turn advocating for the creation of stronger councils and young adult leaders in their communities. Find out how student council has improved their district, encouraging service and leadership throughout. 🍏

### **Integrating International Diversity within a Low Socio-Economic Community**

La Joya ISD's Juarez Lincoln High School will demonstrate how essential it is to consider local diversity, international diversity, and multicultural backgrounds when it comes to students being heard. For the first time, the school has foreign exchange students and is able to include them and learn from them within the student council. As a result of their joining the school community, the high school has become an even more diverse and international-friendly campus.

### **Unleashing Student Voice to Ensure Safer Schools**

From the Little Rock Nine to Malala Yousafzai, from the Dreamers to the students of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, students have been on the front lines of history, pushing for safer schools and more equitable education. But what does a safer, more equitable school really look like and what does it take to make and keep it that way? In this session, members of **Kentucky's Prichard Committee Student Voice Team** share their research from a series of student-led school climate audits and challenge participants to consider the critical role of students themselves in creating safer, more inclusive, and more engaging schools. 🍏

*This session repeats at 3:30 p.m.*

### **eSports: Encouraging Teamwork and Soft-Skill Development Through Competitive Gaming**

There is an underrepresented group of students in every high school, and one of the main groups is nonathletic students, who don't always participate in extracurricular activities. The world we live in now requires soft skills, including but not limited to teamwork, strategizing, and communication, and these students don't gain many through normal academic classes. Hear about one student's quest to ensure all students have the required soft skills they need through a competitive gaming program in Forney ISD. 🍏

**12:15–1:45 p.m.**

**Lunch and Student Voice/Scholarship Award Panel** will automatically be added to attendee's agenda.

**2–3 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **Student-Built Airplane: It Really Does Fly!**

Montgomery ISD high school students, working side-by-side with community mentors, built an airplane as part of the "Aerospace Engineering Career Pathway" at Montgomery High School. It was a great way to involve community members in the education of today's youth and provide high school students with hands-on, project-based learning opportunities. The program has made a tremendous impact on the students, mentors, and school. Learn how your district can implement a similar program successfully. 🍏

### **Promoting 21st-Century Skills: Robotics, Anyone?**

Advances in technology continue to push the boundaries of education. What better way to understand these technologies, prepare the next generation for the future, and be a part of this growing worldwide trend than to allow students to play an active role in their study and development? Offering robotics in an engineering class or as an after-school program has helped change the way students learn and view the world at Alief ISD. It has given them the opportunity to take part in the future of innovation and has helped develop and create a more knowledgeable, well-adjusted student equipped to face the challenges of the future. 🍏

### **Benefits of Career Technical Education Programs**

Karnes City ISD students will demonstrate the benefits of having a strong Career Technical Education (CTE) program, which increases student growth outcomes in academics, attendance, morale, discipline, and culture. Presenters will speak to the relationships between real-world experiences and core areas of study. This small rural school district with about 330 students offers CTE programs in aviation, EMT, culinary arts, print/imaging, and other programs that provide on-the-job employability skills. 🍏

### **Coming Together: Harnessing Gratitude and Generosity to Improve School Culture**

The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted the wish of Kerrville ISD student Zack Reyna in 2010, and he has been paying it forward since then, having worked with Make-A-Wish to help two Kerrville ISD students live out their dream of going to Disney World. Inspired by Zack's attitude of gratitude and generosity, the Antler Leadership Team (ALT) was created and



is dedicated to leadership through service. ALT has enlightened the campus social climate by giving the Believe Campaign extra hands, feet, and motivation. Session attendees will see how a school's social climate changes when individual efforts come together in support of a student-led initiative. 🍏

### **Innovative Community-Based Instruction for Special Needs Students**

Newton ISD will spotlight Community-Based Instruction (CBI), designed by NISD teachers to benefit special needs students. CBI prepares students for adult independence by emphasizing work ethic and building social skills. Students attend class and work during the school day with school staff in attendance. Dressed as associates and performing real jobs, students find confidence and pride, and some become permanent employees. Hear from students about what they've learned and business leaders about their experiences with working students and how their businesses have flourished as a result. Parents and board members will also share how the program has affected the school, the students, and their families. 🍏

### **In Their Own Words: The Challenges Today's Students Face**

While their lives are often filled with great moments, many students also face challenges. Balancing the demands of classes, athletic and academic competitions, family expectations, and work schedules can stretch students thin, and that's before considering they're also managing dozens or hundreds of relationships in person and online. Some students face additional hurdles related to body image, sexual orientation and identity, ethnicity, religion, and social class; some are uncertain about getting enough to eat, having a place to call home, or being allowed to remain in the country. Students are invited to share insight into the many challenges they and their peers face in this fish-bowl style session, facilitated by an experienced teacher and student council advisor. Please come with an open mind and an open heart. 🍏

### **Students as Partners: How to Engage and Collaborate with Students to Drive Improvement in Your School and Community**

Students are the subjects and recipients of education research, policy, and practice but are seldom agents in crafting those efforts. In this session, representatives from **Kentucky's Prichard Committee Student**

**Voice Team** will make the case for integrating more student feedback in education design and decision making. They will share their research, policy, and advocacy work on some key education equity issues and examine the impact of elevating student voice in this facilitated discussion that will identify strategies for elevating student voice within existing programs and partnerships. 🍏

### **Incorporating Student Voice in Governance Practices**

The authority the school board has in its policy-making and resource allocation roles can support, or may unintentionally hinder, students' ability to be successful. In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the centrality of student voice to discussions and policy development—especially when they involve issues of equity. Examples will be provided on how to facilitate authentic engagement between the board/district and its students and how to empower boards to take the lead in ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all. 🏛️

**3:30–4:30 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions** (Choose one.)

### **Unleashing Student Voice to Ensure Safer Schools**

See session descriptor, 11:15 a.m.

### **Navigating the Waters of Leadership: The Student Perspective**

Students are invited to participate in a lively discussion about leadership in a fish-bowl style session. Trustees will gain insight on the students' perspective of leadership and how they navigate the various responsibilities as a student leader. The first learning activity will be to listen intently (some districts don't hear much from the students, so this could be an eye-opener for some board members). Next, attendees will have the opportunity to respond with encouragement or tips for their journey. A handout with student leadership trends and resources for district leaders will be provided. 🍏

### **Students Leading Students to More Inclusive Communities**

On this ship, students run the show! In the most culturally diverse community in the nation, Fort Bend ISD equips students with the tools they need to overcome the issues that differences bring and build inclusive communities where all are welcomed, heard,

and supported. Learn how the district’s leadership team empowers students in project planning, marketing, and leading the programmatic development of initiatives on campuses across the community. 🍎

### **Best Buddies: Creating Lasting Relationships through Unique Special Needs Support Program**

A current Conroe ISD student and president of the international organization Best Buddies will share the story of his journey in working with special needs students. Best Buddies is dedicated to creating one-to-one friendships, leadership developmental skills, and job opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His chapter was nominated as the most outstanding chapter and won the National Pacesetter award, and he also helped open four new chapters. This year his chapter adopted a five-year plan to open a chapter in every school in Conroe ISD (a total of 56). In this session, learn how to set up a chapter and how this effort brings opportunity to all individuals. 🍎

### **Reaching our Academic Reward (ROAR) with Hispanic First-Generation College Students**

Attendees will meet students currently enrolled in the Wharton ISD Early College High School program and will learn how this program has affected them, their families, and the community. Discover the benefits of setting up an early college high school program and how it can directly impact a small rural community. 🍎

### **The Soft Bigotry of Low Expectations**

You have heard it said that “people will live up or down to your expectations.” Research has proven that is true of children in our classrooms. Sometimes the decisions we make as board members and administrators actually lower expectations for teachers and students. This session, inspired by 2019 keynote speaker Wes Moore’s research and advice, will add your voice to a discussion of this issue with a focus on possible solutions.

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

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**7–8 a.m.**

**Breakfast-by-the-Bay** will automatically be added to attendee’s agenda.

**8–9 a.m.**

**Connecting the Dots** will automatically be added to attendee’s agenda.

Solidify your learning experience. Join TASB staff and fellow attendees for an informal conversation that provides an opportunity to engage and share the “ahas” and those “I want to remember that!” moments. The research is clear: we remember best when we share what we’ve learned; connect the new thing to the old things; and most importantly spend adequate time reflecting on the learning.

**9:15–10:30 a.m.**

**General Session** will automatically be added to attendee’s agenda.