

Leadership Team Times

February 2017

Countdown to WGLS

The 20th annual Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS), March 2–4 in Corpus Christi, is right around the corner. In addition to tried and true educational sessions, we're excited to add a few new pieces to the program this year, so we hope you will join us.

New this year, join fellow attendees and TASB staff at the "Regiception" (registration+reception) on Wednesday, 4:30–6 p.m. Pick up your conference materials and reconnect with colleagues. TASB staff will be on hand to answer questions, help with CEC Mobile, and provide guidance on how to use social media tools for advocacy. Refreshments will be served.

Here are a few reminders to help you prepare:

- Pack some PB&J! Bring a gift of peanut butter and jelly to donate to local food banks on site.
- Be sure your myTASB credentials are current so you can use CEC Mobile to report your continuing education credits.
- Bring your smile! TASB Media Services staff will be on hand to take free professional headshots on Saturday, 7–7:30 a.m.
- If you're registered but can't attend, you must cancel by February 21 for a full refund.

Visit LTS.tasb.org for complete conference details. See you in Corpus!



Preparing to Serve

As May elections approach, remember that TASB has a wealth of information for community members considering running for office. One of the resources is Preparing to Serve: A Webinar for School Board Candidates.

This webinar is designed to help individuals learn more about candidate qualifications, constructive campaigns, and the role of a board member. Webinars will be offered at noon and 6:30 p.m. on February 13 and March 9, so potential candidates can select a date and time that best fits their schedules. Complete details and registration are available at LTS.tasb.org.

There is no cost to participate, but preregistration is required at LTS.tasb.org. Questions? Contact LTS at **512.505.2459**.



Spring Workshop Dates and Locations Announced

Each spring, TASB delivers free training throughout the state with a series of workshops offered in conjunction with education service centers (ESCs), state colleges and

Training, Events, & Reminders

Legal Seminar Series:

February 8, Tyler • February 9, Lubbock

Webinar: Preparing to Serve: A Webinar for School Board Candidates, February 13 and March 9

Webinar: A Conversation with Commissioner Mike Morath: The A–F Accountability Work-in-Progress Report, February 8

Conference for Administrative Professionals:

February 23–24, Austin

Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS):

March 2–4, Corpus Christi

Summer Leadership

Institute: June 15–17, San Antonio • June 22–24, Fort Worth

Online Learning Center

(OLC): Courses available 24/7 at onlinelearning.tasb.org

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universities, and area school board associations. Session topics are selected by area school board members and presented by a mix of TASB staff, legal professionals, state representatives, ESC staff, board members, and university staff. Go to **LTS.tasb.org** to get details and to save the date for the workshop near you:



- Abilene, May 11
- Alpine, May 9
- Canyon, May 17
- Commerce, May 16
- El Paso, April 13
- Houston, April 26
- Huntsville, May 24
- Kingsville, April 5
- Lubbock, April 18
- Nacogdoches, May 16
- South Padre, May 19–20
- Stephenville, April 27
- Uvalde, May 11
- Victoria, May 17
- Waco, May 23
- Wichita Falls, March 27

Visit **LTS.tasb.org** for more details, or call **512.505.2462**.

On the Road Again

By Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant

When the school doors close, many children struggle to access educational opportunities, as well as basic needs like healthy meals and adequate adult supervision. Most students lose about two months of mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement. That phenomenon is what is known as “summer slide,” and we have over 100 years of research to back up those findings. A hundred or more years ago, the summer break served the purpose of allowing children to pick crops for their family’s survival. I don’t know about you, but my children haven’t picked a crop since....EVER!

So, why, you ask, do we continue with an antiquated, unnecessary practice that clearly hurts student learning and achievement? I have been asking myself that recently, and there is no acceptable answer. So I started researching the other effects of our three-month learning interruption. I found evidence that childhood obesity is linked because children gain more weight during those three months than in the other nine months. Further, for those students who may only eat when they are at school, three months is a long time for them to be experiencing poor nutrition. I also discovered that students learning English as a second language typically don’t practice their English skills over that long break when it’s just easier to speak in their native tongue. For children who lack adequate adult supervision over the summer months, that time may leave them in unsafe situations or provide opportunity to engage in delinquent behaviors. None of these things are acceptable!

Fortunately, there is a solution. Several districts in Texas have utilized modified or year-round calendars for more than twenty years. Tulo-so-Midway in Corpus Christi and Socorro in El Paso are two of the largest. Tulo-so-Midway boasts a 0% dropout and 100% graduation rate! Socorro surpasses the state average on 17 of 17 tests! Both report higher attendance, great community support, and increased teacher morale. Isn’t it time we took a better look at these and programs like them? You will have two opportunities to do so. On Wednesday, February 1, at 8:30 a.m., I present a session at TASA’s Midwinter Conference in Austin. On Friday, March 3, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m. I repeat that session at TASB’s Winter Governance in Corpus Christi. Please join me or feel free to contact me at **kay.douglas@tasb.org** for more information.

Timely Resources

These TASB resources may be especially useful this time of year:

- Developing Superintendent Performance Goals
- Guide for School Board Candidates

Go to **LTS.tasb.org** for a complete list of resources. Order these publications at **store.tasb.org** or call **800.580.8272, extension 1068**.

Contact Us

Leadership Team Times is produced by the TASB Leadership Team Services (LTS) Division. For more information about LTS and its training opportunities and services, plus an electronic version of this newsletter, go to **LTS.tasb.org**. Contact Lisa Carothers at **lisa.carothers@tasb.org** with questions or comments.

Did You Know?

When you attend Winter Governance and Legal Seminar and other larger TASB events, you can enter your credit using CEC Mobile on your mobile device. All you need is current myTASB credentials and Wi-Fi. Details can be found at **CEC.tasb.org**.