



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



TAGT



ABOUT TAGT

TAGT Vision: The Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented strives to positively impact the lives of gifted and talented individuals by providing relevant, innovative programs and services through an engaged, diverse membership.

TAGT Mission: The Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented connects and empowers educators and parents to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented individuals through awareness, advocacy and action.

TAGT

GUIDING

PRINCIPLES



TAGT leadership has adopted these principles to shape and inform strategic initiatives, programs, and services. TAGT embraces the varied definitions and paradigms of giftedness and supports local control around the approach to giftedness and talent development. These principles serve as a set of agreements that TAGT and its leadership will employ to guide TAGT as we work to achieve our vision and mission.



**PROMOTE
EQUITY IN
ALL ASPECTS
OF GIFTED
EDUCATION**



**SUPPORT
INTENTIONAL
STUDENT
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS**



**EMPOWER THE
WHOLE GIFTED
CHILD**



**ENABLE
CONTINUOUS
LISTENING AND
LEARNING**



PROMOTE EQUITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF GIFTED EDUCATION

We are committed to changing practices, structures, and policies to realize educational equity for all children. TAGT understands high-ability children exist across all cultures, races, economic strata, and in all student populations. However, the opportunity gap that exists in gifted education across our state and the nation is unacceptable. TAGT will provide resources, guidance, and research to enable members and districts to:

- Promote identification practices that ensure the population of students receiving gifted/talented services is closely reflective of the population of the total district and/or campus.
- Ensure pedagogy, curriculum, and experiences are culturally relevant and responsive to all student populations.
- Focus on retention of students from all backgrounds through effective systems of support, family connections and education, and community engagement.



SUPPORT INTENTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We believe students should be provided daily an array of learning opportunities that are commensurate with their abilities and are available during the school day as well as the entire school year. TAGT supports local control over learning environments and should emphasize mastery over minutes. Students should have the opportunity to:

- Participate in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication
- Develop innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment
- Produce products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services by graduation



EMPOWER THE WHOLE GIFTED CHILD

To empower gifted students and ensure they reach their full potential, we believe the needs of the Whole Gifted Child should be understood, addressed, and honored. These needs include academic achievement, gifted traits and behaviors, social emotional needs, and psychosocial learning. TAGT members seek and develop potential in all students and know that these brilliant minds just might discover innovative answers to the most challenging questions of their generation.



ENABLE CONTINUOUS LISTENING AND LEARNING

We believe in engaging our community with curiosity and a growth mindset. We appreciate the diversity, depth, and breadth of perspectives, experience, and expertise that exist in it. We foster relevant conversations and create connections between stakeholders in the gifted education community, broader education community, and policy makers. TAGT promotes awareness of effective gifted education strategies and the limitless possibilities represented in high ability children. To impact the wellbeing and success of students, TAGT will:

- Provide high quality, research-based learning opportunities to teachers, administrators, and parents
- Create opportunities for connection between these stakeholders
- Nurture relationships amongst stakeholders and the broader education community

TAGT STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PLATFORM: Expand awareness of gifted and talented education and promote engagement in the TAGT community.



ADVOCACY

The TAGT Board formed a Legislative Task Force to actively work to accomplish the TAGT Policy Goals through testimony and relationships with key lawmakers.



EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Texas education community is diverse in scope and expertise. Ensuring that school and district leaders and educators from all backgrounds are aware of and maintain, at minimum, a basic understanding of the unique needs of gifted students is vital to the success of these students. In 2021-2022, TAGT leaders and members presented at multiple educational events outside of TAGT conferences, including CAMT, STAT, TCEA, ATPE, and NABE.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Student and educator scholarships are an important tool in expanding awareness of our work with families and educators. In the spring of 2022, TAGT awarded nearly \$34,000 in student and educator scholarships. This sum included the new Laura Allard Future Vision Scholarships two \$7,500 awards to outstanding gifted seniors. Student scholarships open in early 2023.

PEOPLE: Engage a more diverse membership and empower members to impact the learning of gifted and talented students.

MEMBERSHIP



1,663

TAGT Members

The **TAGT Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access Network** was created in spring 2021 to bring a community of educators from diverse backgrounds together in networking and career development while creating a safe space for conversation and open discussion. This network of Texas educators will ultimately influence equity practices in gifted education and provide a leadership and volunteer pipeline of diverse educators for TAGT. In December 2020, the TAGT Board created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force to examine internal TAGT policies, systems, and programs with the goal of ensuring TAGT is and remains an inclusive and diverse association.

192

eSubscriber
Members

VOLUNTEERS



168

Presenters



145

Committee
& Task Force
Volunteers

30

TEMPO+
Contributors

PROGRAMS: Deliver responsive and relevant programming that creates professional growth, fosters community, and results in financial sustainability.



TAGT Online Events & Attendees

- giftED22: **1020**
- Leadership: **232**
- New Coordinator Boot Camp: **26**
- Book Studies: **54**
- Connect Chat: **49**
- Parent Webinars: **2100+**
- TAGT On Demand
 - **3,415** unique users
 - **25,940** hours completed

Community & Parent Engagement

- **G/T AWARENESS WEEK**
hosted April 1-5, 2024
- **2 PARENT WEBINARS**,
serving 2000+ parents

TEMPO+

- **49,000+** visits
- **7,500+** new users
- **23+** new articles in 2024

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



DESIGNED BY THE GIFTED COMMUNITY, POWERED BY TAGT



THANK YOU COMMITTEE MEMBERS & LEADERS!

AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Chair: Russ Weeks, Mesquite ISD
Vice Chair: Melissa Saphos, ESC 6
Jennifer Cooper, Leander ISD
Vanessa Brower, Ector County ISD
Taylor Gargol, Grand Prairie ISD
Liz Rimler, Mesquite ISD
Michele Pisciotto, Hurst Euless Bedford
Melissa Nordstrom, Montgomery ISD
Audra Rowell, Northwest ISD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Amanda Smith, Alvin ISD
Vice Chair: Danielle Peterson, Katy ISD
Amanda Rudolph, Central Heights
Heather Caldwell, Prosper ISD
Jenn Ellis, Montgomery ISD
Stefanie Torres, Austin ISD
Anitra Brazzle, Alvin ISD
Annie Mitchell, Spring Branch ISD
Claire Skierski, Grand Prairie ISD
Johnna Rosson, Ector County ISD
Emma Luckemeyer, New Braunfels ISD
Andy Garcia, Hurst Euless Bedford ISD

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Leny Philipose, Wylie ISD
Vice Chair: Tiffany Williams, Region 4 ESC
Jennifer Watson, Richardson ISD
Angela Fabbiani, Brownwood ISD
Kristen Roberts, Frisco ISD
Bonnie Murray, Alvin ISD
Angie Connell, Birdville ISD
Alaina Hamilton, Hallsville ISD
Mechelle Galyon, Celina ISD
Brittany Madden, Frisco ISD
Dawn Bailey, Lake Worth ISD
Robin Holcomb, Montgomery ISD

EQUITY RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kelsey Karcher, Richardson ISD
Vice Chair: Danielle Moore, DeSoto ISD/
University of North Texas
Mitchell Morken, Dallas ISD
R. Liliana Salinas-Sletmoen, Red Oak ISD
Katie Lewis, York College of Pennsylvania
Brandi Jackson, Richardson ISD
Christin Kimball, Spring ISD
Rene Madden, Frisco ISD
Theresa Pollok, Mansfield ISD
Kandi Ellis, Nederland ISD

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Monica Simonds, Riverside Insights
Debbie Smith, Retired/TAGT On Demand
Blake Haygood, Austin ISD
Tish Cawley, Hays CISD
Amy Gresham, Arlington ISD

RESEARCH RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Ashley Shen, UNT
Corissa Phelps, Killeen ISD
Marci Matlock, Carrollton-Farmers
Branch ISD
Travis Hill, UNT
Jan Martinez, Odyssey Academy, Inc.
Caressa Roberts, Henderson ISD
Eva Baker, Splendora ISD
Emily Waters, Grand Prairie ISD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Luke Hurst, Richardson ISD
Katie Drake, Killeen ISD
Roxanne Brown, Northside ISD
Celeste Sodergren, UCONN
Kristin Majority, Frisco ISD
Hope Scallan, Leander ISD
Tina Moore, Retired

LEADERSHIP RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kimberly Bissell, Corpus Christi ISD
Vice Chair: Shirley Bachus, Leander ISD
Blythe Brown, Clear Creek ISD
Kari Lockhart, Allen ISD
Karen Green, McKinney ISD, retired
Jennifer Leal, Rockwall ISD
Elizabeth Severance, Austin ISD
Mirinda Coleman, San Antonio ISD
Kristen Vesely, Ector County ISD
Amy Chandler, North East ISD
Karen Rambo-Hernandez, Texas A&M
University

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Heather Block, Pearland ISD
Vice Chair: Susan Pelezo, Aldine ISD
Melanie Cravey, Liberty Hill ISD
Sarah Gibson, Lubbock ISD
Rebecca Jasinski, Alvin ISD
Heather Martin, Northwest ISD
Justin Pata, Richardson ISD
Shannon Ramirez, Goose Creek
Consolidated ISD
Melissa Vasquez, Round Rock ISD
Rachel Beavers, Corpus Christi ISD
Teresa Mitchell, Killeen ISD

PARENT RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Donna Hodge, Keller ISD
Vice Chair: Christine Williamson, KIPP
Rebecca Jasinski, Alvin ISD
Amanda Khan, Pasadena ISD
Shaunise Robinson, Poised for Success
Tammy Krumm, San Antonio ISD
Krystal Austin, Spring Branch ISD
Amanda Esquivel, Grand Prairie ISD
Thea Turner, Denton ISD

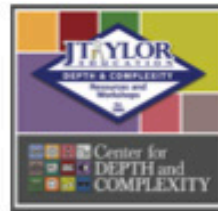
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Christina Dearman, TRIO Talent
Search, UNT
Fred Bonner, Prairie View A&M
Audra Rowell, Northwest ISD
Cecilia Boswell, Austin Creek Educational
Systems
Debi Torres, Baylor University
Susan Pelezo, Aldine ISD

RESOURCE REVIEW COUNCIL

Chair: Melanie Meyer, Baylor University

THANK YOU PARTNERS IN GIFTED EDUCATION





TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE
GIFTED & TALENTED