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 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.
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.

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.

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

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

**ADVOCACY**

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.

**EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS**

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.

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

MEMBERSHIP

1,867
TAGT Members

49
eSubscriber Members

VOLUNTEERS

143
Presenters

86
Committee & Task Force Volunteers

19
TEMPO+ Contributors

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

**TAGT Online Events & Attendees**
- giftED22: **1260**
- Leadership: **224**
- New Coordinator Boot Camp: **52**
- Book Studies: **37**
- Connect Chat: **44**
- Parent Webinars: **2100+**
- TAGT On Demand
  - 14,259 unique users
  - 139,104 hours completed

**Community & Parent Engagement**
- **G/T AWARENESS WEEK**
  - hosted April 3-7, 2023
- **2 PARENT WEBINARS,**
  - serving 1000+ parents

**TEMPO+**
- **26,000+ visits**
- Average **3,500 visits** per month
- **11+ new articles in 2023**
Thank You Committee Members & Leaders!

**Awareness Committee**

- Chair: Brie Smith, Lovejoy ISD
- Vice Chair: Russ Weeks, Mesquite ISD
- Heather Brown, Greenwood ISD
- Jennifer Cooper, Leander ISD
- Michael Flusche, Fort Worth ISD
- Vanessa Brower, Ector County ISD
- Taylor Gargol, Grand Prairie ISD
- Melissa Saphos, ESC 6
- Stacey Onstott, Birdville ISD
- Liz Rimmier, Mesquite ISD
- Michele Pisciottano, Hurst Euless Bedford ISD

**Leadership Resource Committee**

- Chair: Amanda Smith, Alvin ISD
- Vice Chair: Kimberly Bissell, Corpus Christi ISD
- Laura Lyons, Birdville ISD
- Bobby Martinez, Alvin ISD
- Laurie Westphal, Fort Bend ISD
- Blythe Brown, Clear Creek ISD
- Kari Lockhart, Allen ISD
- Shirley Bachus, Leander ISD
- Jennifer Leal, Rockwall ISD
- Jenn Ellis, Montgomery ISD
- Cuyler Anderson, El Paso ISD
- Celia Irizarry, Manor ISD
- Karen Green, Pedagogy for Success

**Equity Resource Committee**

- Chair: Kelsey Karcher, Dallas ISD
- Vice Chair: Brandi Marroquin, San Antonio ISD
- Katie Lewis, York College of Pennsylvania
- Mitchell Morken, Dallas ISD
- Maria Chrzanowski, Amarillo ISD
- Kamilah Holmes, Fort Bend ISD
- Elizabeth Severance, Austin ISD
- Carla Capelo-Pichardo, Region 1 ESC
- Danielle Moore, DeSoto ISD
- R. Liliana Salinas-Sletmoen, Red Oak ISD
- Basilia Trejo, Birdville ISD

**Finance Committee**

- Chair: Luke Hurst, Terrell ISD
- Celeste Sonderegger, Baylor University
- Kristin Majority, Frisco ISD
- Hope Scallan, Leander ISD
- Katie Drake, Killeen ISD
- Lori Mabry, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD
- Audra Rowell, Northwest ISD

**Leadership Development Committee**

- Chair: Debbie Smith, TAGT Past President
- Debi Torres, Baylor University
- Susan Pelezo, Aldine ISD
- Luke Hurst, Terrell ISD
- Shelia Mulbry, Lockhart ISD
- Mary Christopher, Christopher Gifted Leadership Consulting

**Parent Resource Committee**

- Chair: Blake Haygood, New Braunfels ISD
- Vice Chair: Donna Hodge, Keller ISD
- Jennine Zeleznik, Conam ISD
- Rebecca Jasinski, Alvin ISD
- Stacy Mueller, Pearland ISD
- Amanda Khan, Pasadena ISD
- William Morrow, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
- Sydney Baker, Sweeney ISD
- Alex Kabli, Splendora ISD
- Dilia Cornett, San Benito ISD
- Christine Williamson, San Antonio ISD
- Nicole Pickard, Alvin ISD

**Policy and Planning Committee**

- Chair: Monica Simonds, Richardson ISD
- Lynette Bredlove, Western Kentucky University
- Karen Zeske, Arlington ISD
- Monica Willis, Parent
- Tish Cawley, Hays CISD
- Amy Gresham, Arlington ISD

**Research Resource Committee**

- Chair: Lindsay Lee, East Tennessee State University
- Vice Chair: Seth Rutledge, Prosper ISD
- Kristen Vesely, Ector County ISD
- Michelle Leverette, University of Texas at Arlington
- Corissa Phelps, Killeen ISD
- Karen Rambo-Hernandez, Texas A&M University
- Elizabeth Walls, Katy ISD
- Farrah De La Croix, Austin ISD
- Alyssa Hanna, Godley ISD
- Justin Pata, Richardson ISD
THANK YOU PARTNERS IN GIFTED EDUCATION