

Workshop

OVERVIEW

First Session: 1-2PM

The 87th Legislative Session Update

Due Process – All Employees Should Have it!

Making Good Teachers Great: Shaping Your Teacher Identity

Recruiting Early Career Educators

Second Session: 2-3PM

Classroom 101: Know Your Rights!

Fundamentals of Organizing - Embrace the fact that Union starts with You!

Social Justice Unionism

TSTA Micro-credentials: Professional Learning Communities for the 21st Century Union Member

Workshops

1 pm - 2pm

The 87th Legislative Session Update

Education policy being proposed in the Texas Legislature, the pandemic response, and why elections have consequences.

Portia Bosse, TSTA Public Affairs Director

Due Process – All Employees Should Have it!

Education Support Professionals are the spokes on the wheels of our public education system. Despite how well they do their jobs, in many districts they continue to be "at-will" employees whose employment can be terminated at any time for any reason or no reason at all. This creates a permanent cloud of insecurity under which they work and is bad for morale. All employees deserve a fair procedural process before their employment is terminated.

The concept of due process is an integral part of the American way. It is enshrined in the fifth and fourteenth amendments of the constitution. Dignity, justice and respect, demand that Education Support Professionals such as bus drivers, monitors, custodians, teacher aides, secretaries and food service workers receive due process in their employment. TSTA has been on the march regarding this issue and local associations have mounted successful campaigns. Attend this session to learn how you can win due process rights for hourly employees in your school district.

Jason Wylie, TSTA Organizer

Workshops

1 pm - 2pm

Making Good Teachers Great: Shaping Your Teacher Identity

In the world of education, the measure of greatness is far too often decided through standardized test scores and other forms of data. Though there is a place for using tests to check for student learning, the full measure of student, teacher and school quality is far beyond just test scores. Teacher effectiveness, in particular, is the end result of a range of attributes a teacher possesses. What are those intangible qualities, and how do teachers develop and acquire these special qualities?

Through this exploration, and guided by the book by the same name, *Shaping the Teacher Identity: 8 Lessons That Will Help Define the Teacher in You* by Kwame Sarfo-Mensah, M.Ed, teachers will discover the source and power of their own identities.

Carrie Griffith, TSTA Government Relations and Policy Specialist

Recruiting Early Career Educators

Recruiting and retaining membership is an essential part of building power in your local. This training provides a framework for engaging new hires in your district, with a focus on authentic story sharing and membership asks. You'll leave prepared to have 1-1 conversations and to recruit new hires at your worksite.

Brittany McCoy, TSTA Organizer

Workshops

2pm - 3pm

Classroom 101: Know Your Rights!

In this session, we will discuss Texas laws and school board policies that directly relate to public school employment. We will examine employment issues related to contracts, leave, certification, grievances, job duties, recent COVID-19 developments, and overall working conditions.

Amanda Moore, TSTA General Counsel

Fundamentals of Organizing - Embrace the fact that Union starts with You!

In this workshop, participants will become conscious about how power moves followers to act through greater understanding of one another through the action of solidarity by recognizing the global scope of diversity and the impact on organizing. Our diverse society is a culmination of ethnic diversity, organizational culture, community culture, values, and beliefs, motivation for the people engaged in any collective action. Participants will gain insight into the constant evolving change and challenges of organizing, by learning to highlight the human commonalities, shared interests as opposed to allowing differences to create barriers in organizing.

Yolanda Gonzalez, TSTA Organizer & Paty Márquez, TSTA OCALD Director

Workshops

2pm - 3pm

Social Justice Unionism

Participants will examine the definition of social justice unionism, observe examples of locals that have practiced this form of unionism, and reflect on how they can shift their locals to approach their unionism with a social justice lens.

Alonzo Mendoza, TSTA Organizer

TSTA Micro-credentials: Professional Learning Communities for the 21st Century Union Member

Lifelong professional learning is essential in education, and in an effort to make it easier for all educators to access these opportunities the National Education Association has developed NEA Micro-credentials, and TSTA has launched its own Texas-branded portal.

A micro-credential is a short, competency-based digital recognition that allows an educator to demonstrate mastery in a particular area, such as classroom management or trauma-informed pedagogy. NEA micro-credentials are grounded in research and best practice and are designed to be personalized and flexible.

This session will introduce members to the TSTA Micro-credential portal and will help participants learn how to access this professional development and valuable member-benefit.

Carrie Griffith, TSTA Government Relations and Policy Specialist