

Professional Development Workshops: Session 1 – 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Public School Employees: Essential Rights Under Texas Law (CPE Credit)

Portia Talley, TSTA General Counsel, Jessica Patterson, TSTA Staff Attorney

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of Texas laws and school board policies that directly impact public school employment. Participants will explore key employment topics, including contracts, pre-employment affidavits, certification requirements and misconduct investigations, and the interplay between state and federal laws governing education professionals.

The discussion will also cover practical workplace considerations such as employee grievances, job duties, working conditions, and the legal frameworks that guide decision-making in these areas. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and the policies that shape the public school work environment in Texas.

Chautauqua A

Safe School Zones (CPE Credit)

Alonzo Mendoza, TSTA Member Organizer

This session will provide training in the rights that students have and the safe school zone initiative to protect all students while on campus.

Veramendi H

TIA: Teacher Incentive Allotment (CPE Credit)

Brian Peña, TSTA Public Affairs

This training introduces the basics of the legislation, with steps to advocate for plans that use holistic measures of student learning.

Veramendi I

Professional Development Workshops: Session 2 – 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Public School Employees: Essential Rights Under Texas Law (CPE Credit)

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Chautauqua A

Advancing Racial Justice

Alonzo Mendoza, TSTA Member Organizer

Participants will learn about TSTA and NEA's racial justice initiatives and examine four levels of racism that exist in our schools and society and engage in an activity to practice identifying such levels. This training will conclude with a reflective discussion on how TSTA members can integrate social justice in their locals' unionism.

Veramendi H

Battleground Texas: 2026 Midterm Election Training

James Hallamek, Government Relations Specialist

The 2026 midterm elections will play a pivotal role in determining the future of public education in Texas and across the nation — and TSTA members have the political power to advocate for their communities and public schooling. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Texas political landscape and explore updated election tactics, including relational organizing and community-based canvassing. Members will also learn about voter contact scripts, GOTV strategies, and electoral legal compliance.

Veramendi I

Professional Development Workshops: Session 3 – 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Let's Talk About Race: A Beginning Conversation for Educators

Dr. Dwonna Goldstone, Associate Professor of Department of History at Texas State University and Director of African American Studies Program

This session invites educators to engage with a brief reading on race and use it as a springboard for a thoughtful, structured dialogue on race and racism. Participants will reflect on how the text connects to current conversations about race and racism in today's society, and we will consider the implications for their own teaching practices. Together, we will begin building a shared language and collective responsibility for addressing race in today's classrooms.

Chautauqua A

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Parliamentary Procedures Workshop – 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Jeff Neurauter, Parliamentarian for TSTA's House of Delegates

Specifically designed for new delegates, this workshop provides the basics on parliamentary procedure.

Chautauqua A

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