



# Testimony

## Testimony to the Texas Education Agency

### *Proposed Rules for a Dropout Recovery Pilot Program*

by Brooke Dollens Terry  
*Education Policy Analyst*

Good Morning. I am Brooke Dollens Terry, an education policy analyst with the Texas Public Policy Foundation. The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a research-based think tank located in Austin based on the principles of limited government, free markets, individual liberty, personal responsibility, and private property rights.

As we all know, the dropout crisis in Texas is a problem. Unfortunately, it disproportionately affects poor and minority students in inner city schools. The individual needs of students aren't being met—compromising Texas' ability to compete and students' ability to achieve their dreams. We support exploring new solutions to catching students who fall through the cracks.

We applaud the Texas Education Agency's willingness to try new ways to address the dropout crisis and support all eligible entities in the proposed rules including: public school districts, charter schools, higher education institutions, regional education service centers, and non-profits.

Many people will fight this proposal and want to continue the status quo in our public schools. We hope that the needs of students will be put before politics.