

President's Letter



I am sincerely honored for your acceptance of me as the President of the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators. I recognize the awesome responsibility that comes along with the appointment, and I assure you that I will carry out this duty to the best of my abilities. As a member of the organization for more than a decade, I understand the significance of the work in which we are engaged and I believe that ensuring higher levels of learning for all students — especially students of African descent— is our most important work.

I am proud to be a member of the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators — an organization of purpose-filled, passion-driven educators who are committed to improving the educational achievement of all students with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of African-American students. It is my aspiration that our collective focus will be to ensure that the initiatives and activities that we engage in on a local level through our local affiliates will be relevant to the educators and students we serve. TABSE's strength is centered on the action of the local affiliates and it is critical that action persists on the local level and that we are engaged in activities that matter as it relates to teaching and learning of all students, but specifically African-American students. As I mentioned at the state conference, I am challenging TABSE to RISE to the next level. I want us to focus on ensuring that our actions are relevant, impactful, sustainable and above all excellent.

The Texas Alliance of Black School Educators is uniquely positioned to become the go-to organization for highlighting best practices for educating African-American students. We recognize that in the state of Texas, we have the responsibility for educating more than 600,000 African-American boys and girls. This is largest number of African-American students of any state in the union. Texas and TABSE must RISE and we must lead the way in taking intentional action to eliminate the persistent gaps that impact our students' education. TABSE acknowledges that eliminating the achievement gap is our chief responsibility and we recognize that in order to do so, we must address the early childhood access gap, we must address the low-expectation gap, the opportunity gaps and the teacher and leadership preparation gaps that our nation's schools experience.

If not TABSE then who? If not now, then when?

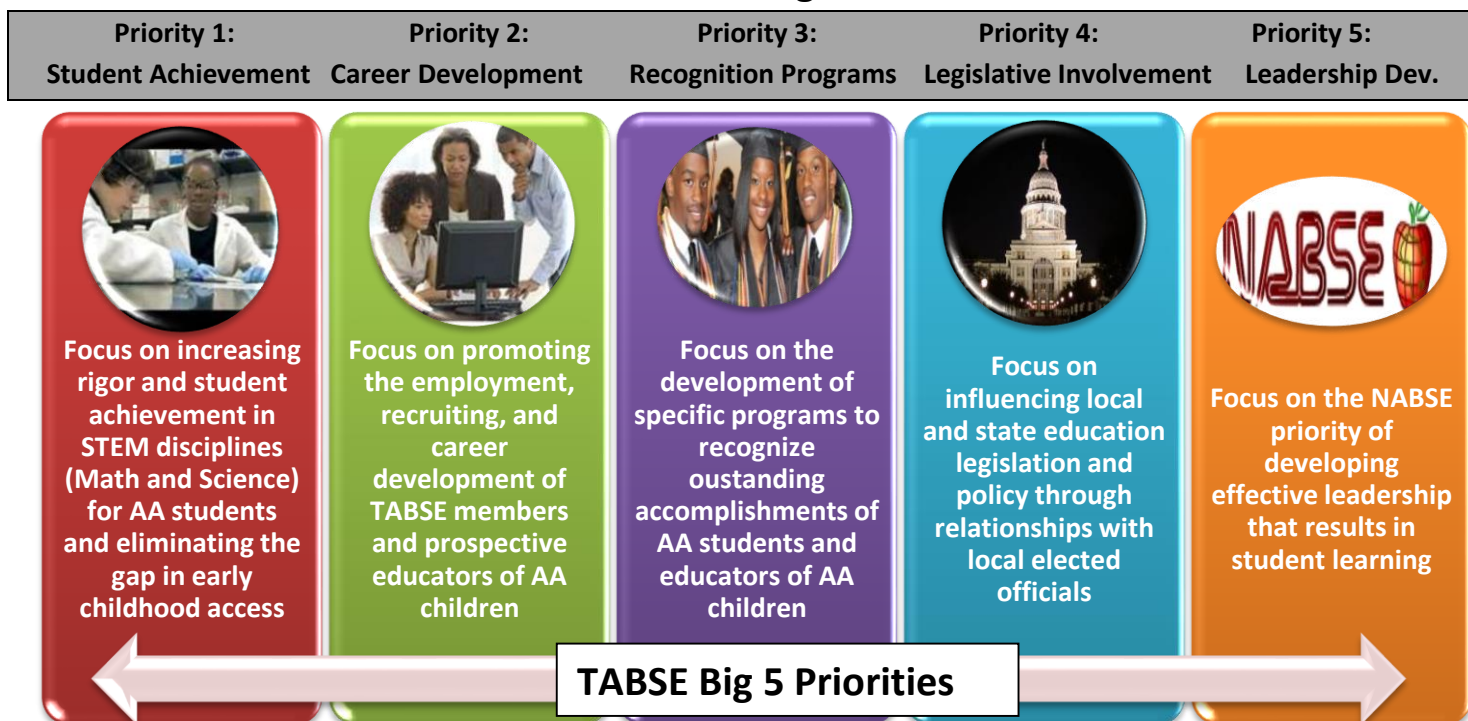
It is time for us to work with intention to achieve the original vision and mission of our founders.

The Texas Alliance of Black School Educators seeks to:

- Promote and facilitate the education of all students, especially those of African descent.
- Establish a coalition of educators directly involved in the educational process of African-American students.
- Create a forum for the exchange of ideas and strategies to improve opportunities for people of African descent.

To achieve the original vision and mission of our founders, the current administration reviewed the TABSE Constitution and identified 13 functions of the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators. In effort to streamline the focus of the organization, the 13 functions have been grouped into four categories and one category was added to encompass the National Alliance of Black School Educators priorities. The TABSE Big 5 are listed in the following graphic.

TABSE Big 5



Local affiliates and TABSE members are expected to design and engage in activities that will address the TABSE Big 5 Priorities. This will help to build the TABSE brand, improve our efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that we are remaining relevant, impactful, sustainable and in alignment across the state.

Specifically, I am asking for all members to get involved and stay engaged by doing the following:

1. **Communicate** the TABSE mission, agenda, and priorities to other colleagues who are interested in joining us in the work. Detailed information can be found at www.tabse.net
2. **Connect** with a local affiliate in your area and identify an opportunity to serve. A list of active affiliates can be found on the TABSE website. If you have a question, please send an email to tabsepresident@gmail.com
3. **Create** a local affiliate in areas where there is none and identify a minimum of 10 people who are willing to work toward improving educational outcomes for all students and particularly students of African descent.

I am excited about what the future holds for this great organization, and I trust that you are as well. Your expertise is vital, your input is necessary and your action is required. Our collective voice is stronger and our message is more powerful when we align our efforts and focus our attention on creating significant collective impact.

TABSE it is time to RISE. Will You RISE with us?

I am TABSE! YOU are TABSE! We are TABSE! So TABSE, let's RISE together!

My Best,

Dr. Michael D. McFarland
President
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