



25th Annual School Finance & Legislative Workshop

January 25, 2026

Schedule:	Details:
11:30 a.m.	Lunch Buffet served in the foyer Happy Hour served in the foyer
11:35 a.m.	Sponsor Introductions (by Josh Sanderson, Equity Center)
12:00 p.m.	Legislative Panel (moderated by Greg Gibson, MoakCasey) Chairman Brad Buckley, Texas House Vice-Chairman Diego Bernal, Texas House Chairman Trent Ashby, Texas House
1:10 p.m.	Equity Center & Moak Casey Panel (moderated by Greg Gibson, MoakCasey) Josh Sanderson, Equity Center Carl Dethloff, Equity Center Josh Haney, MoakCasey Leo Lopez, MoakCasey
1:50 p.m.	Political News & More (introduction by Josh Sanderson, Equity Center) Scott Braddock, Quorum Report
2:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks & Door Prizes (by Josh Sanderson, Equity Center)

Speakers



Josh Sanderson serves as the Executive Director of the Equity Center. Prior to joining the EC in 2016, he worked for the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives, where he worked largely on state budget issues. As legislative director for Chairman Allan Ritter, he concentrated on budget and tax policy, including school finance during the 2005 and 2006 sessions. He also represented the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) on school finance, retirement, and healthcare issues and served on the Texans for Secure Retirement Board of Trustees.



Dr. Carl Dethloff, joined the Equity Center as Deputy Executive Director after serving as superintendent at San Angelo ISD for nine years, and as Assistant Supt. of Human Resources and Professional Development for six years before that. Earlier in his career, he served as principal of three different campuses in College Station, garnering such awards as the Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll and the Texas Monthly Top Performing Schools in Texas award. He holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from Austin College in Sherman, TX. He earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University.



Dr. Buck Gilcrease joined MoakCasey in 2018, and now leads the company as Executive Chairman of the Board. He maintains focus on its guiding principle of a public service firm providing school finance and accountability analyses, leadership, and support to clients. With almost 30 years of experience in Texas public schools, serving the last 15 as a superintendent first in a small, rural district, then in a mid-sized district and lastly in a multi-high school, fast growth district, he has extensive experience in successfully navigating through areas of school finance and accountability.



Dr. Greg Gibson joined MoakCasey in 2020, specializing in strategic planning and continuous improvement processes. Dr. Gibson serves as Chief Operations Officer, and is also the Executive Director for Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools (TAMS), coming to this role after a career in public education which includes 21 years as Superintendent of Schools. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Art both from Midwestern State University, and his Doctor of Education from the University of North Texas.



Josh Haney started his career at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts after he graduated from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin. While at the Comptroller's office, he provided forecasts of state revenues and fiscal impact analyses of proposed legislation. He also led efforts within the agency to improve its revenue tracking and reporting processes. Josh joined MoakCasey in 2019. He serves as Senior Vice President of Finance. Josh enjoys the privilege of serving school districts through this transformational period in school finance.

Speakers



Leo Lopez serves as Chief Financial Officer for MoakCasey. He has 20 years of experience working in public school finance, most recently serving at the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as Associate Commissioner for School Finance and Chief School Finance Officer. During that time, Leo was instrumental in directly supporting the Texas Commission on Public School Finance and in the development and implementation of House Bill 3, an historic school finance bill passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019.



Chairman Brad Buckley, House District 54, was elected to the Texas House in November of 2018 and was the Texas House Republican Caucus's Freshman of the Year in the 86th legislature. He chairs the House Public Education Committee and is honored to lead on important policy that affects professional educators, the 5.5 million school children in Texas, and their families. He also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee. He is the proud husband of Dr. Susan Buckley, who is a career educator and currently serves as Asst. Supt. for Secondary Schools in Killeen ISD.



Representative Diego Bernal, House District 123, was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in February 2015. His district is home to downtown and north central San Antonio, parts of the city's West Side, along with the City of Castle Hills. He currently serves as a member of the House Committee on Ways & Means and as Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Public Education. After graduating from law school, he returned to San Antonio as a MALDEF staff attorney. He worked for systemic changes to ensure equitable funding for Texas public schools.



Chairman Trent Ashby, House District 9, was elected to the House in 2013, and serves as Chair of the House Subcommittee on Academic & Career-Oriented Education. He is a member of the House Public Education Committee and Natural Resources Committee. Ashby is proud of his rural background and upbringing. He is a graduate of Henderson High School and was named one of their distinguished alumnus in 2014. Trent is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics..



Scott Braddock is a journalist and political analyst based in Austin, Texas. He covers the Texas Legislature and politics in the Lone Star State by working with Austin legend Harvey Kronberg to produce the most successful political newsletter in Texas: The Quorum Report. In January of 2015, Scott became Quorum Report Editor. He has been honored with Edward R. Murrow and AP awards for investigative journalism and received recognition for excellence and fairness in political reporting from members of Texas' Congressional delegation.

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