



Leading today.  
Inspiring tomorrow.

# Texas Counseling Association 2017 Public Policy Agenda

## Mission Statement

*The Texas Counseling Association provides leadership and advocacy for the counseling profession, while supporting optimal development and mental health for all.*

## Public Policy Priorities

- Promote justice and dignity for all
- Promote timely access to behavioral mental health and education services for all
- Represent all professional counselors in all work settings
- Promote student retention, persistence and success in all educational settings
- Support individual and family growth, recovery and development across the lifespan

## 2017 Legislative Agenda

- Maintain autonomous structures for regulatory boards and agencies
- Protect the rights of individuals to access education, career opportunities and professional counseling services regardless of ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic status
- Increase Medicaid and third party payor reimbursement rates to 100 percent for all providers
- Amend the Texas Occupation Code to authorize Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists to diagnose
- Require school districts to report in Public Education Information Management Systems (PEIMS) the number of Certified School Counselors on each campus
- Establish standards to ensure that counseling services in academic and clinical settings are provided by Licensed and/or Certified Professional Counselors
- Allow LPC-Interns to be reimbursed for services provided under supervision to Medicaid clients
- Establish strong and consistent certification standards for Professional School Counselors

## Texas Counseling Association

Founded in 1947, the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) represents more than 7,000 Professional Counselors who work in a variety of settings to empower individuals, families, students and groups to accomplish their mental health, education and career goals. Professional Counselors are required by Texas statutes to hold master's or doctoral degrees, complete extensive hours of post-graduate supervision, pass rigorous licensing exams and pursue continuing education. Certified School Counselors must also have two years of classroom teaching experience.

Professional Counselors work in private practice; at elementary and secondary schools; on college campuses; in criminal justice facilities; at community mental health centers, hospitals, nursing homes, managed care and non-profit agencies; and other settings across Texas.

### TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

1204 San Antonio St., Suite 201 | Austin, Texas | 78751  
(512) 472-3403 | [www.txca.org](http://www.txca.org)