

Science Teachers Association of Texas

Please Allow Your Science Teachers to attend CAST November 17-19, 2011

Special request for dates off before Thanksgiving for professional development

Dear Superintendent,

We, the Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT), humbly submit this request for your teachers' attendance at the annual Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST). This year, our conference falls upon difficult dates: **November 17-19**, the weekend before Thanksgiving break. We understand that many teachers are unable to request days off during that week. We hope that you will not allow this date change to prohibit them from attending.

This conference is not a vacation: it is an important, hands-on, face-to-face professional development opportunity that your science teachers need.

CAST provides up to **15 hours of continuing education credits**, and serves over **7,000 teachers** and administrators across the state of Texas. We are the largest and most enriching statewide science conference in the nation, and our outstanding programming will be your teachers' most important professional development of the year. Visit <http://www.statweb.org/cast2011> for more information.

We know that times are tough. Teachers and students alike are already feeling the financial strain. However, Texas leaders cannot allow the current situation to deprive their teachers of the training and support they need.

The conference will be held at the Dallas Convention Center, and regular registration rates are still at a low price of **\$115 for Early Bird** registrants. In order to accommodate all districts, we will be opening registration very **early** this year, beginning on **May 1, 2011**. Please act now to secure the funds and measures necessary for your teachers to attend our conference.

Respectfully,



Chuck Hempstead
STAT Executive Director



Science Teachers Association of Texas

Leading Science Education in Texas

5750 Balcones Dr., Suite 201, Austin, TX 78731

(512) 491-6685 · Fax (512) 873-7423