A young girl with curly hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, a whiteboard has the equation  $4 \times 5 = 20$  written on it. The girl's hand is visible holding a white marker with a red cap, positioned as if she has just finished writing the equation. The whiteboard is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the girl in the foreground.
$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

**SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# **SCHOOL FINANCE**

# **ADVOCACY TEAM**

**Wednesday, Nov. 16 - MEETING 4**

**SCHOOL FINANCE**

**ADVOCACY TEAM**

**WELCOME**

**Jennifer Blaine, Ed.D.**

SBISD Superintendent of Schools

**SCHOOL FINANCE**

ADVOCACY TEAM

**How we got here...  
Advocacy in SBISD**

**How we got here...  
History of Advocacy in SBISD**

Brian Muecke

## **SFAT Steering Committee**

Brian Muecke  
Kristi Thibaut  
Jen Espey  
Georgia Polley

**SCHOOL FINANCE**

ADVOCACY TEAM

# A Legislator's Perspective



**Insights from Rep. Dan Huberty  
Retiring Representative - District 127  
Former Chairman, House Committee on Public Education**

TALK & TURN

# **The Legislative Process**

Kristi Thibaut

# I. OVERVIEW



- A. The Texas Legislature meets in odd years for 140 Days.
- B. The First day of any Texas Legislative session is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January. (January 10, 2023)
- C. The Last Day of a Texas Legislative session is called Sine Die. (May 29, 2023)



## II. THE BILL

- A. A Legislator is the only one who can introduce a bill.
- B. The bill must be filed with the Chief Clerk of the House or Senate.
- C. The First day to file a bill is November 14, 2022.
- D. The Last Day to file a bill is Friday, March 10, 2023.
- E. A bill is read 3 times. On first reading, the bill caption is read by the Reading Clerk and referred to committee.



# III. COMMITTEE

- A. Committee assignments in the House are a combination of seniority appointments and Speaker appointments. In the Senate, the Lt. Governor makes all of the appointments.
- B. The committee chair decides when the committee will meet and which bills will be considered.
- C. If a bill receives a hearing in the House, notice must be posted 5 calendar days before the committee meeting. In the Senate, notice must be post 24 hours in advance of a bill hearing.
- D. The Member (In conjunction with the LBB) must provide a fiscal note and bill analysis when your bill receives a hearing.
- E. Public testimony will be heard in committee meetings. You can sign up at the kiosks outside the committee hearing rooms or online.
- F. Committee Reports
  1. After considering a bill, the committee can choose to leave a bill pending.
  2. When a vote is taken and if the bill passes, it is voted out favorably with or without amendments or a substitute bill to the original bill.
  3. A committee report includes the vote, the text of the bill as reported by the committee, any proposed amendments, a fiscal note and a bill analysis.
  4. Committee report is printed and sent to the appropriate Calendars committee.

## IV. CALENDARS COMMITTEE

- A. After a bill is passed out of committee, it is assigned to either House Calendars or Local and Consent committee.
- B. Most, if not all, school finance bills will be referred to House Calendars.
- C. The House Calendars committee decides when a bill is scheduled for floor consideration.

# V. FLOOR ACTION

## SECOND READING

1. Floor consideration begins on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading when a bill is first subject to debate and amendment by the entire membership of a chamber.
2. A bill may be amended on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on a simple majority vote of the members present and voting.
3. A separate vote is taken on each amendment proposed.
4. After the bill is debated and amended, a vote is taken. If the bill passes, it moves on to 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

## THIRD READING

1. A bill must be read on three separate legislative days.
2. A bill is voted on for final passage.
3. A bill can be amended on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, but for an amendment to be adopted, 2/3 vote of the members present must support.

## ENGROSSED

1. After a bill has passed final passage, it is engrossed.
2. Engrossed is when all corrections and amendments are incorporated into the bill.
3. An exact and accurate copy of the engrossed bill is sent to the opposite chamber for consideration.

## **VI. RETURN OF A BILL IN THE ORIGINATING CHAMBER**

- A. After a bill has passed the opposite chamber, it is returned to the originating chamber.**
- B. If the bill was not amended in the opposite chamber or if the originating chamber concurs with the amendments, the bill is enrolled, signed by both presiding officers, and sent to the Governor.**
- C. If the originating chamber does not concur with the amendments from the opposite chamber, the originating chamber can ask for a conference committee.**

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

- 1. The presiding officers appoint five members each from their respective chambers.**
- 2. A conference committee's charge is limited to reconciling the differences between the two chambers.**
- 3. Three members from each chamber must agree on the report and then the conference committee report is sent back to both chambers for a vote.**
- 4. A conference committee report is not subject to amendment by either chamber and must be voted up or down in its entirety.**
- 5. If the conference committee report is acceptable by both chambers, it is enrolled, signed by both presiding officers, and sent to the Governor.**

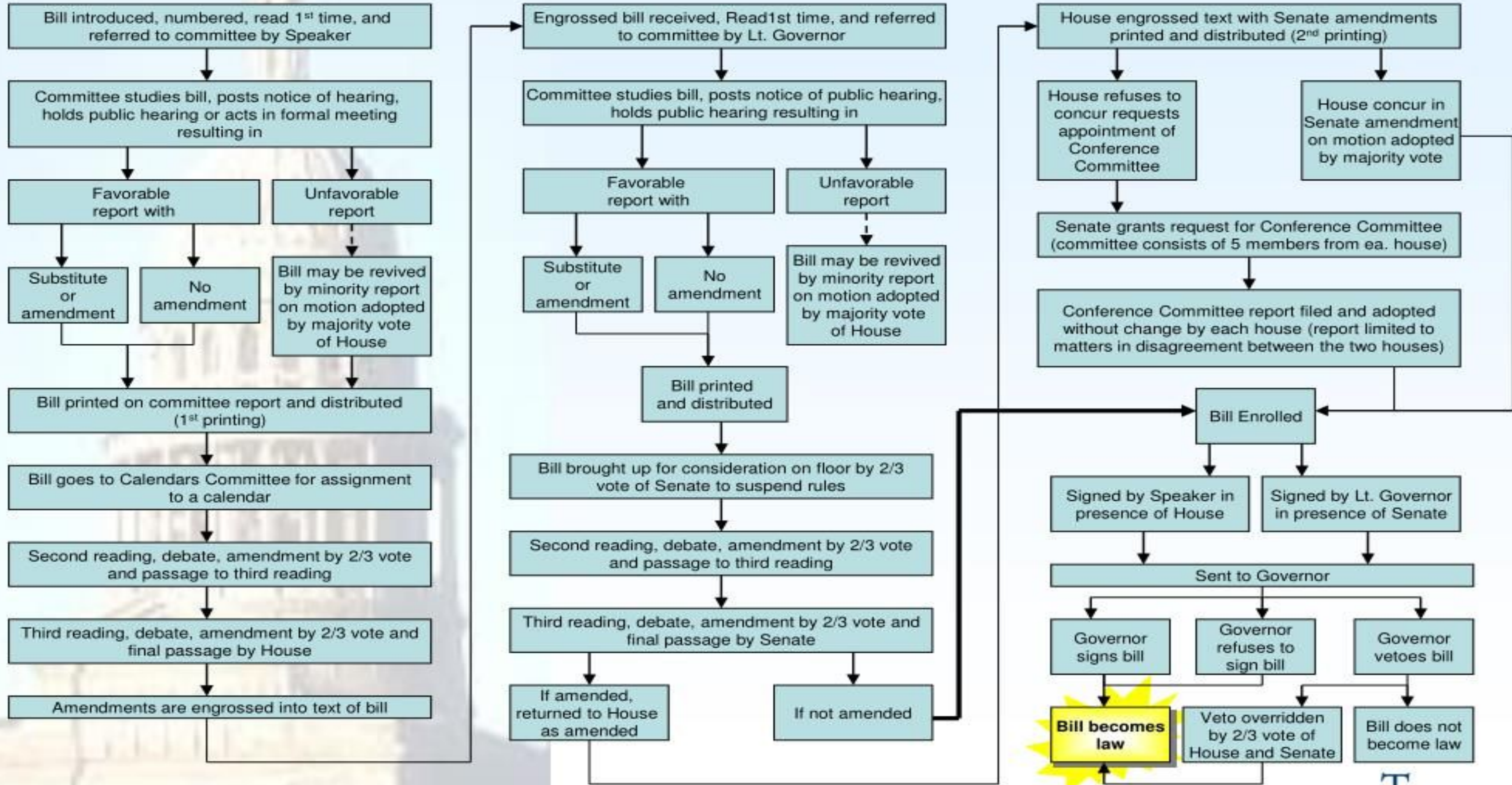


## VII. GOVERNOR'S ACTION

- A. Once the Governor receives the enrolled bill, he can sign it, veto it, or take no action and the bill becomes law.
- B. The Governor has 10 days to act once he receives a bill.

# Diagram of Legislative Process

This diagram displays the sequential flow of a bill from the time it is introduced in the House of Representatives to final passage and transmittal to the Governor. A bill introduced in the Senate would follow the same procedure in reverse.



- Texas House**
- Home
  - Speaker of the House
  - Members
  - Committees
  - Committee Meetings
  - Committee Witnesses
  - Calendars
  - Current Amendment
  - Journals
  - News
  - House Research Organization
  - Kids' House
- Texas Senate**
- Home
  - Lieutenant Governor
  - Members
  - Committees
  - Committee Meetings
  - Calendars
  - Journals
  - News
  - Senate Research Center
  - Senate Kids

**Related Links**

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**Search Legislation**

Legislature: 87(3) - 2021

Word/Phrase  Bill Number

**Additional Searches**

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[Bill Lookup](#)     [Constitution](#)  
[Bill Search](#)     [Reports](#)  
[Amendments](#)     [View Votes](#)  
[Sections Affected](#)     [Administrative Code](#)  
[Legislative Archive System](#)

**How Do I ...**

[Find list of filed bills?](#)  
[Follow the status of a bill?](#)  
[Contact my legislator?](#)  
[Find how a legislator voted?](#)  
[Find when hearings are scheduled?](#)  
[View the text of a bill?](#)  
[Testify at a House committee hearing?](#)

[more>>](#)

**My TLO**

[Track Legislation With Bill Lists](#)  
[Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts](#)  
[Subscribe to RSS Feeds](#)   
[View Content on Mobile Device](#)  
[Saved Bill, Text, Amendment Searches](#)

**Access Mobile Version of TLO**

Access a mobile version of TLO, Who Represents Me, and DistrictViewer on an iPhone, iPad, or other mobile device. From the mobile device browser, enter [www.txlegis.com](http://www.txlegis.com). NOTE: Some applications or features within an application may not be accessible on all mobile devices.

**Legislative Activity**

Video Broadcasts: [House](#) | [Senate](#)  
 Today's Calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Meetings: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Filed Bills: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Votes: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

**Legislative Process**

 [How a Bill Becomes Law](#)  
[How to Follow A Bill](#)  
[Dates of Interest](#) | [Glossary](#)  
[End of Session Deadlines](#)

**Redistricting**

[Texas Redistricting Website](#)  
[DistrictViewer](#)  
[Senate Special Committee on Redistricting](#)

**Who Represents Me?**

Enter your address to find [who represents you](#) in the legislature.

Address:

City:

ZIP Code:   [Privacy Policy](#)

**Capitol Complex Information**

 [Events and Visitor Information](#)  
[Wireless Access](#) | [Images](#) | [State Symbols](#)

# VIII. RESOURCES

A. Texas Legislative Council

[www.tlc.texas.gov](http://www.tlc.texas.gov)

B. Texas Legislature Online

[www.capitol.texas.gov](http://www.capitol.texas.gov)



**SCHOOL FINANCE**

ADVOCACY TEAM

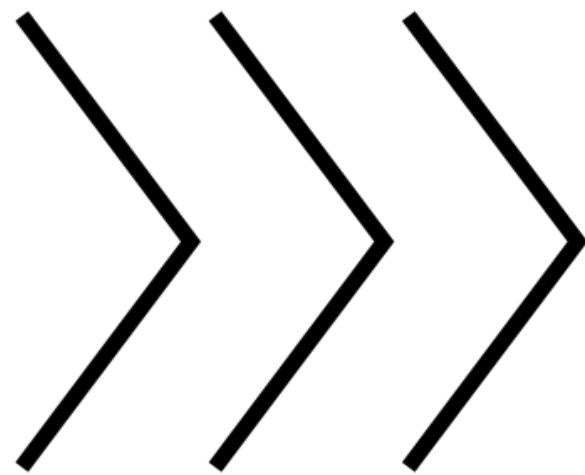
# Advocacy Strategies & Best Practices

## Advocacy Strategies & Best Practices

Georgia Polley

# What does Advocacy Look Like?

**ADVOCACY = ACTION**



- social media
- letter/postcard
- writing
- phone calls
- petitions
- in-person meetings
- op-ed

## Other Texas Education Advocacy Groups:

- TEXAS SCHOOL COALITION
- TEXAS SCHOOL ALLIANCE
- RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS
- JUST FUND IT
- PF3 (PARENTS FOR FULL FAIR FUNDING)
- SPRING BRANCH SPEAKS
- LOCAL PTAs / TEXAS PTA

# LETTER / POSTCARD WRITING



## IDEAS

Take a basket of pre-addressed postcards to your Dad's Group, PTA Meeting, Wine Club, Book Club. Collect them all and mail them in yourself!

Write a letter and share it with others - the one time its ok to plagiarize!

Always include your name and address (zip code at the very least). Be specific in what your ask.

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in SBISD and have \_\_\_ kids in the school district. I am a constituent of \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling regarding school finance reform. I would like to encourage \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee...

# PHONE CALLS



Often time is of the essence when a bill is in committee or headed to the floor.

A phone call to legislators is a quick way to give them an idea if their constituents agree or disagree with the proposed legislation.

### **Recommended:**

Call **YOUR** representatives **PLUS** the committee chair and any other committee members.

State your name and whether or not you are a constituent. Ask them to vote for or against a bill.

## **TIP!**

Save your State Reps and Senators in your phone contacts!

In your contacts... under "company"- add the same word (ELECTED was used in this example). Then when you go to search type "elected" in the search bar and every elected official you have as a contact will come up so you can pull them all up with one easy search



# MEETING IN PERSON

- Schedule in advance - be flexible. Take friends with you.
- Have a one-pager with you to give them (stay tuned).
- Be clear in what you want to discuss.

Stay tuned for your chance to sit down and meet SBISD legislators!



# SOCIAL MEDIA - TWITTER TO BE EXACT

## Retweet, Quote Tweet or New Tweet!

Politicians love/hate Twitter.

It's an easy way to interact and catch their attention.

Use hashtags that others use to gain notice:

#txed = Texas Education

#txlege = Texas Legislature

#fullyfundSBISD = Our Advocacy Team

Tag the district @SBISD

## Tag your representatives!

SBISD:

@TeamBettencourt

@joanhuffman

@whitmire\_john

@votepennyshaw

@laceyhulltx

@manoforstaterep\*

@ltgovtx

@govabbott

\*could change

OPINION

## Accountability in Texas education should not be a participation trophy

We must continue to hold our students and schools to high standards,



Austin American-Statesman  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1871

GUEST | Opinion This piece represents a collection of opinions from various sources, separate from those of this publication.  
Published 7:02 a.m. CT Sept. 4, 2022

### Opinion: Our public schools are at a tipping point; Texans should ask why

David DeMatthews and David S. Knight

The Texas Education Agency recently released school and district ratings for the first time since 2019, and there has been some improvement, but a longstanding trend persists. Many schools in the state's poorest communities struggle to meet achievement targets. This year, almost 8,500 campuses were evaluated, and more than 6,000 received either an "A" or a "B" for student achievement outcomes and growth. But that is where the good news ends. Approximately 1,600 schools received a "C," and more than 550 schools would have been rated as a "D" or an "F," but the TEA opted to classify those schools as "Not Rated."

Here is the problem: Almost 90% of schools not rated are in the state's poorest communities. None are in the most affluent communities.

Persistently struggling schools represent a decades-long problem that reflects two policy failures: the failure to adequately fund schools in poorer communities, and the failure to create a teacher workforce to fill each school with experienced, high-quality teachers. If the state were rated for addressing these two failures, Texas would be rated "F" relative to other states. Texas should do better.

The state's antiquated finance system ranks among the bottom five for providing adequate resources to high-poverty school districts. Despite multiple cases reaching the Supreme Court of Texas, including several rulings in favor of plaintiff school districts, our lawmakers have never created a system that puts all students on equal footing.

# THE OP-ED

Typically, it is short - between 750 and 800 words.  
It has a clearly defined point.  
It has a clearly defined point of view.  
It represents clarity of thinking.  
It contains the strong, unique voice of the writer.

Stay tuned for more information on an Op-Ed opportunity!

# PTA

Texas PTA is the second-largest child advocacy association in the nation and the largest in Texas.

PTA chair positions include an Advocacy Chair (formerly Legislative Chair) though not required. PTAs are the great source of advocacy when it comes to education in Texas.



#TXPTARally23



## The SBISD Council of PTAs will organize and host a bus to Austin for Rally Day on Monday, Feb. 27

Agenda includes:  
Texas PTA Priorities and Student Caucuses  
Lunch  
Meetings with Legislators

If you want to help, please contact:  
[advocacy@sbisdcpa.org](mailto:advocacy@sbisdcpa.org)

<https://www.txpta.org/newsroom>

<https://www.txpta.org/advocacy>



# PTA

Texas PTA is the second-largest child advocacy association in the nation and the largest in Texas.

PTA chair positions include an Advocacy Chair (formerly Legislative Chair) though not required. PTAs are the great source of advocacy when it comes to education in Texas.

## As a PTA, we may:

- Take positions on education and child advocacy issues, including initiatives and referendums voted on at the local or state level.
- Speak to legislators and public policy makers regarding issues.
- Arrange and support activities that serve to inform members about issues.
- Promote participation in civic activities by encouraging individuals to register to vote and encourage voter turnout.
- Arrange, support, sponsor, and advertise public information forums.
- Educate members on various issues and their impact, including local issues like bond elections.
- Share the voting records of elected officials.

## As a PTA, we may not:

- Participate or intervene in, directly or indirectly, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. This includes both partisan and nonpartisan races, such as the school board



# Above all - BE KIND IN YOUR WORDS

## Be fair towards legislators.

With very rare exceptions, they are honest, intelligent and want to do the right things. Your job is to inform them effectively about what you think is right.

## Avoid cynicism.

Government and politics may be faulty, but so is every profession. A disdainful attitude is an expensive luxury these days of it “poisons the well” and immobilizes the will to work for social betterment

## Be understanding.

Put yourself in the legislator’s place. Try to understand his/her problems, outlook and aims. Then you are more likely to persuade him/her to do the same in understanding yours.

## Be friendly.

Don’t contact legislators only when you want their help. Take pains to keep in touch with them throughout the year, every year. (Lyndon Johnson: “You have the kind of friends you are. Get to be a part of your legislator’s future.”)

## Be reasonable.

Recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion. Never indulge in threats or recriminations; they are confessions of weakness. Keep working to change the other fellow’s mind.

**Friday, January 6, 9:30 a.m.**

Bunker Hill Elementary

**Friday, January 13, 8:30 a.m.**

Rummel Creek Elementary

**Tuesday, January 17, 12:00 p.m.**

Valley Oaks Elementary

**Thursday, January 26, 9:30 a.m.**

Hunters Creek Elementary

**Tuesday, February 21, 11:30 a.m.**

Spring Forest Middle School

**Friday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.**

Wilchester Elementary

**Wednesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m.**

Spring Woods High School

**More to come!**

# **Top Advocacy Messages**

Brian Muecke & Jen Espey



## SFAT TOP ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

1. Basic Allotment Increase\*
2. Automatic Inflation Adjustment\*
3. Cost of Education Adjustment\*\*
4. Early Recapture Payment Discount\*\*\*
5. Full Credit for Homestead Exemption\*\*\*\*

*\*impacts all districts*

*\*\*Impacts urban and coastal districts*

*\*\*\*Impacts Chapter 49 districts*

*\*\*\*\* Impacts SBISD & other Chapter 49 LOHE offering districts*

# SFAT KEY MOTIVATORS

- 1. SBISD is the 39th largest district; SBISD pays the 10th highest recapture payment**
- 2. SBISD pays the 10th highest recapture payment though 57% of SBISD students are economically disadvantaged**
- 3. Since 2014, SBISD has paid \$400 million in recapture; SBISD has only received \$148 million in State funding**
- 4. No inflation adjustment is built into funding formula**
- 5. No cost of education adjustment is built into funding formula**



# SFAT KEY MOTIVATORS

6. Lack of transparency in state budget relative to recaptured funds
7. Texas is among lowest 10 states on education spending
8. We are constantly “Begging for breadcrumbs” – there has been no fix to the school finance model
9. State has required use of ESSER for funding inflationary costs; ESSER funds go away next year
10. We cannot have a repeat of 2011 in SBISD!



**What's Next?  
School Finance Advocacy  
Team In Action**

Jen Espey



**Meetings with Legislators**

**4 Community Meetings**

**PTA Meetings**

**Other Local Groups**

**SBISD Social Media Campaign**

**Op-ed**

# SCHOOL FINANCE

## ADVOCACY TEAM

### 1 – Join via Link

<https://www.remind.com/join/sfatsbisd>

or scan QR code (attached)

### 2 – Text @SFATsbisd to 81010 (must include the @ symbol!)



## Sign up for important updates from L. Buchman and L. Marshall.

Get information for SFAT Extra Classes right on your phone—not on handouts.

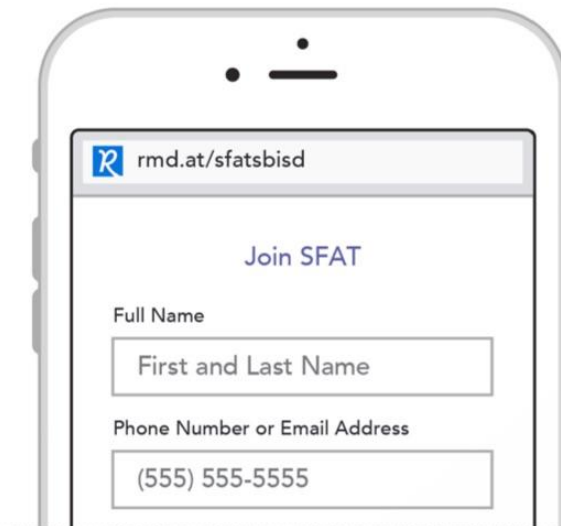
Pick a way to receive messages for SFAT:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/sfatsbisd](https://www.remind.com/join/sfatsbisd)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @sfatsbisd to the number 81010

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @sfatsbisd to (774) 353-0907.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/sfatsbisd](https://www.remind.com/join/sfatsbisd) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

**SCHOOL FINANCE**

ADVOCACY TEAM

# **Legislative Session Kick Off Meeting**

## **SFAT Legislative Session Kick Off Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 11**

Memorial High School Cafeteria

6:00 p.m.

prior to Community Meeting at 7:00

**Wednesday, January 11**

Memorial High School Cafeteria

**Wednesday, January 18**

Spring Woods High School Cafeteria

**Wednesday, January 25**

Northbrook High School Cafeteria

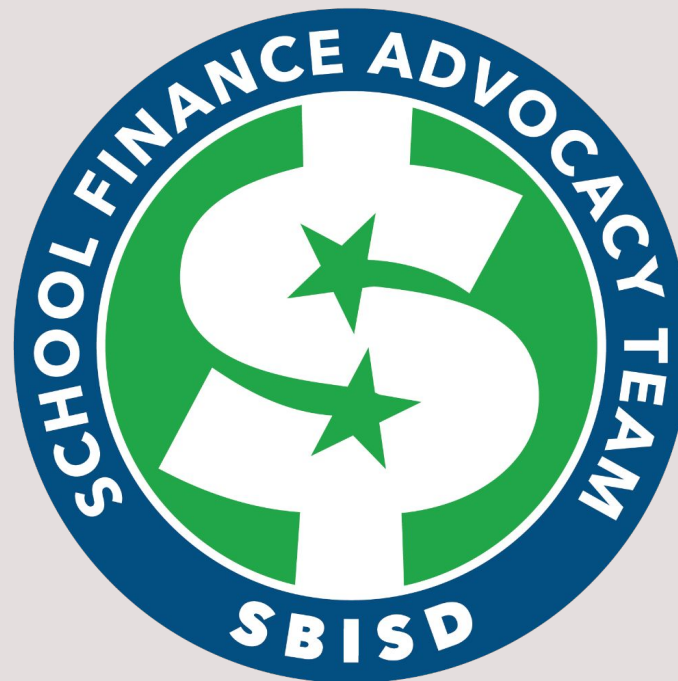
**Wednesday, February 8**

Stratford High School Cafeteria

All meetings will run 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



1



2



3



# SFAT MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Please complete the SFAT Survey via Google Form...

- Who's in your network of influence?
- What groups are you part of that need to hear our message?
- How do you want to help with advocacy?
- Can we send you text messages?

## **Closing Remarks**

**Jennifer Blaine, Ed.D.**

Superintendent of Schools



$4 \times 5 = 20$

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# SCHOOL FINANCE

# ADVOCACY TEAM

Wednesday, Nov. 2 - MEETING 3