



89TH PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*Prioritizing the success of our students
& the strength of our community*

FEB. 21, NO. 2

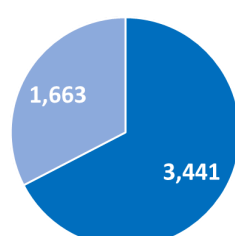
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with the most current information on the 89th Legislative Session, as it relates to public education and CFISD's Legislative Priorities. Be sure to stay informed and engaged!



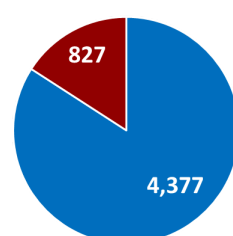
BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

5,104
total bills filed

■ House
■ Senate



■ Other
■ Education



BILLS TO WATCH

HOUSE

- **HB 2 (Buckley):** Public School Finance
 - Increases the Basic Allotment
 - Increases Special Education funding
 - Expands pre-K, fine arts, & HS career advising, reduces the achievement gaps, and other targeted operational support
 - Increases teacher pay and teacher training and prep
- **HB 3 (Buckley):** Creates an Education Savings Account Program
 - Any Texas student is eligible to apply; prioritizes students with disabilities, special learning needs, and/or who live in a household that qualifies based on 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines
 - Special education students are eligible to receive the full state entitlement for which they were eligible at a public school
 - Homeschool students are eligible for \$2,000 to be used on approved expenses
 - Other students are eligible to use 85% of their state funding allotment at a new school – approximately \$10,000 per year
- **HB 4 (Buckley):** Student assessment and accountability
 - Requires TEA to reduce the length of statewide assessments, improve alignment with classroom instruction, and provide optional interim tests for districts (Full implementation would start Spring 2026)
 - Ensures Texas ranks in the top five states with the new test in preparing students for post-secondary success within 15 years
 - Expands TEA commissioner's authority and limits districts' ability to sue TEA over their ratings

SENATE

- **SB 26 (Creighton):** Teacher pay increase
 - Teachers with 3 or 4 years of experience
 - \$5,000 for teachers in districts with < 5,000 students
 - \$2,500 for teachers in districts with > 5,000 students
 - Teachers with 5 years or more of experience
 - \$10,000 for teachers in districts with < 5,000 students
 - \$5,500 for teachers in districts with > 5,000 students
 - Increases participation in Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) from 33% to 50%.
 - Increases the number of designations and amount of allotments
 - Classroom teachers eligible for tuition-free pre-K
- **SB 4 (Bettencourt):** Raises the homestead exemption for school district property taxes to \$140,000 from \$100,000 and to \$150,000 for disabled individuals and those aged 65 or older
- **SB 13 (Paxton):** Addresses public school libraries creating school library advisory councils and requiring board approval of library book purchases



CFISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Fully fund school districts that offer a Local Optional Homestead Exemption (LOHE).
- Increase the School Safety Allotment.
- Increase the Special Education Allotment.
- Increase the Transportation Allotment.

View additional details on the CFISD Legislative Priorities at: www.cfisd.net/89leg

The legislative priorities were researched and developed by the CFISD Board of Trustees.

WHO REPRESENTS ME?

- Utilize the Texas Legislature's helpful "Who Represents Me?" web tool to enter your address and find out which lawmakers serve you.
- Access and save their contact information so you can easily reach out about key issues during the legislative session.
- Scan the QR code to access this tool.



If you would like to be added to the distribution list for CFISD legislative SMS (text) alerts, please text @cfisdleg to 81010.



CFISD AT THE CAPITOL



Board Members: Christine Kalmbach, Julie Hinaman, Dr. Natalie Blasingame
Superintendent: Dr. Doug Killian, Chief of Staff: Teresa Hull, Asst. Supt.: Leslie Francis



Rep. Lacey Hull



Rep. Sam Harless



TASA TASB Legislative Conference
Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick



Sen. Paul Bettencourt



Rep. Dr. Tom Oliverson



Rep. Mike Schofield



COMMUNICATION TIPS

89th Legislative Session

Stay connected and let your voice be heard on issues affecting public education.

1 Log on to Texas Legislature Online capitol.texas.gov

- Create an account by locating the **Login** tab on the home page. Track specific bills and receive alerts when action is taken.
- Find out who represents you by submitting your address.

- Select your representative and locate email button to send message.
- Be sure to include in the message whether or not you support the specific bill you are addressing.

2 Access the TLO mobile site

- Enter www.txlegis.com into your mobile device browser for a mobile-friendly version of the website

3 Share info with your contact groups statewide via email and social media.

When sharing info, remember to:

- Encourage others to contact legislators.
- Follow up and stay in touch.
- Be brief and be informed.
- Provide talking points.
- Stay focused and give examples.

KEEP IN MIND

Legislators review ALL communication submitted to them by their constituents and look for the “Yays” and “Nays” of each bill.

