



# 89<sup>TH</sup>

## PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MARCH 28, NO. 5

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!

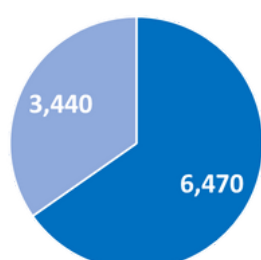


### BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

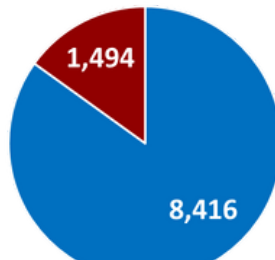
**9,910**  
total bills filed

**1,494**  
public education bills filed

■ House  
■ Senate



■ Other  
■ Education



### BILLS TO WATCH

#### SENATE

- **SB 27 (Creighton): Teacher Rights** (passed out of Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Waives exam and certification fees for special education, bilingual, or another area specified by the General Appropriations Act
  - Prohibits the SBEC from imposing sanctions against a teacher who resigns after the 45th day before the first day of instruction for the following reasons:
    - Serious illness or health condition of the teacher or close family member
    - Teacher's relocation due to a spouse or a partner changing employers or relocating
    - Significant change in the needs of the teachers' family that requires relocation or to resign
    - Reasonable belief that the teacher had written permission from the district's administration to resign
  - Amends the teacher removal process to allow for the removal of a student for:
    - single incident
    - demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult, or student
    - constitutes bullying
- **SB 570 (Bettencourt): Attendance** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee 3/25)
  - Requires board adoption and implementation of a written attendance policy to provide students important information about regular attendance including potential consequences of failing and possible truancy legal proceedings as well as describing the supports to be provided to students who fail to regularly attend school.
- **SB 991 (Bettencourt): Attendance** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee 3/25)
  - Adds chronically absent students and certain students with 10 or more absences within a 6 month period to definition of "at risk." Would define chronically absent students as those who are absent for more than 10 percent of operational time within a year or a 30 instructional day period. Would require reporting of chronically absent students through PEIMS.
- **SB 1871 (Perry): Discipline** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Requires a "single" person at each campus to be designated as the campus behavior coordinator
  - Amends the teacher removal process to allow for the removal of a student for:
    - single incident
    - demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward the teacher, another adult or student
    - constitutes bullying
  - Clarifies that in-school suspensions are NOT subject to a time limit
  - Requires a mandatory expulsion for certain offenses, whether or not the conduct occurred on or off school property or while attending a school-sponsored event
- **SB 1872 (Perry): Discipline** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Amends code and adds expulsion rules to include certain on or off school property offenses against a school district employee or volunteer.
- **SB 1873 (Perry): Discipline** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Clarifies that in-school suspensions are NOT subject to a time limit
- **SB 1874 (Perry): Discipline** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Provides immunity from disciplinary proceedings from a district or SBEC against a professional employee of a district for reporting Chapter 37 violations or an action taken in compliance with Chapter 37.
- **SB 1925 (Creighton): Truancy** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/25)
  - Authorizes but does not require a school district to adopt and implement truancy prevention measures before referring a student to truancy court
- **SB 1191 (Creighton): GPA** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 3/27)
  - Requires the Commissioner to develop a standard method for calculating grade point averages and requires the average to include equal weights for AP, IB and dual credit.
- **SB 762 (Campbell): Display of Flags in Schools** (scheduled for Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/1)
  - Defines which flags may be displayed in a public school



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### BILLS TO WATCH

#### SENATE cont'd.

- **SB 1459 (Campbell): Personal communication devices & internet safety** (scheduled for Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/1)
  - Requires a school district to adopt a written policy prohibiting a student from possessing a personal communication device while on school property during the school day
- **SB 2365 (Creighton): Personal wireless communication devices** (scheduled for Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/1)
  - Requires a school district to adopt a written policy prohibiting a student from using a personal wireless communication device during instructional time
  - Requires classrooms to designate a secure, out-of-sight area for the storage of personal wireless communication devices

#### HOUSE

- **HB 124 (Bonnen): School Safety Allotment** (left pending in House Public Ed. committee on 3/25)
  - Increases School Safety Allotment from \$10 to \$14 per ADA
  - Increases from \$15,000 to \$37,000 per campus
- **HB 7 (Leach): Parental Rights** (left pending in House Public Ed. committee on 3/25)
  - Makes numerous changes regarding complaints and grievances and would specify or clarify parents' rights regarding a variety of issues
  - Removes the requirement that a person appealing to the commissioner be aggrieved by the school laws of the state
  - Makes numerous changes to the commissioner's authority and procedures for addressing complaints



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Monday, March 31 - 2:00 p.m.

- Senate: [watch livestream](#).
  - SB 686 (Paxton): Transfer of students between public schools

#### Tuesday, April 1 - 9:00 a.m.

- Senate Education K-16 Committee Hearing: [watch livestream](#).
  - SB 1459 (Campbell): Personal communication devices & internet safety
  - SB 2365 (Creighton): Personal wireless communication devices by students during instructional time
  - SB 762 (Campbell): Flags in public schools

## The Legislative Process in Texas



### How a Bill Becomes a Law



### 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](http://www.cfisd.net/89leg)

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



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## CFISD AT THE CAPITOL

Dr. Doug Killian, CFISD superintendent of schools, provided testimony on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 to the Senate Committee on Education K-16 on SB 1871 (student discipline) and for SB 1925 (truancy). Click the images below to watch video of his testimony and Q&A.

### SENATE TESTIMONY (SB 1871)



### SENATE TESTIMONY (SB 1925)



*Dr. Killian meets with Sen. Brandon Creighton, chair of the Senate Education K-16 Committee, on March 25.*



*Dr. Killian, Teresa Hull (chief of staff), and Leslie Francis (asst. supt.)*



## 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.**

**CYPRESS FAIRBANKS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

11440 Matzke Rd. Cypress, TX 77429 • [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net)

# 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](http://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.

