



# 89<sup>TH</sup>

## PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MAY 2, NO. 9

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!

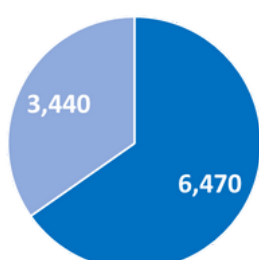


### BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

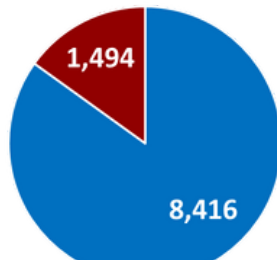
**9,910**  
total bills filed

**1,494**  
public education bills filed

■ House  
■ Senate



■ Other  
■ Education



### BILLS TO WATCH

#### SENT TO GOVERNOR

- **CSSB 2 (Creighton): Education Savings Accounts** (Governor to hold signing ceremony on Saturday, May 3 at 2 p.m.)
  - 85% of the estimated average funding per student in average daily attendance
  - Not to exceed \$30,000 for students in special education programs
  - \$2,000 per year for homeschooled students
  - Limits funding for students without disabilities in families making over 500% of the poverty level to no more than 20% of the expenditures
  - Prioritizes students transitioning from public to private school over those already enrolled in private schools
  - Requires private schools to be in operation for two consecutive years before being an eligible ESA provider.
- **SB 569 (Bettencourt): Virtual Education** (sent to Governor on 4-25)
  - Repeals the State Virtual Schools Network and allows school districts to offer individual virtual courses, full-time virtual schools and full-time hybrid schools

#### SENATE

- **SB 2392 (King): Reporting of certain offenses to law enforcement** (passed out of Senate 4/30)
  - Adds to the list of offenses that must be reported to law enforcement by the principal or designee
  - Sets a time limit of 72 hours
- **SB 2986 (Campbell) Use of School Facilities** (passed out of Senate 4/30)
  - Allows a religious organization to use public school or institution of higher education facilities as long as it doesn't interfere with the district's mission
- **SB 1395 (Hall): SHAC** (passed out of Senate 4/29)
  - Defines membership process for SHAC
- **SB 205 (Paxton): Health curriculum** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 4/29)
  - Requires SBOE to adopt rules for 7th/8th graders to receive instruction on fetal development as part of the health curriculum
- **SB 582 (West): TEA investigations** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 4/29)
  - Makes written reports of certain special investigations conducted by the Texas Education Agency subject to open records
- **SB 625 (Flores): Personal financial literacy course** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 4/29)
  - Requires personal financial literacy to be provided as a one-half credit of social studies
- **SB 2617 (Creighton): AD or BC time** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 4/29)
  - Requires the adoption of a policy requiring the use of Anno Domini (AD) or Before Christ (BC) when expressing dates during student instruction
- **SB 203 (Menéndez) Class Rank** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 5/1)
  - Prevents the disclosure of a public school student's numerical class rank prior to the 11th grade, unless there is a reasonable need for that information



### WATCH THE LEGISLATURE ONLINE

- House: [watch livestream.](#)
- Senate: [watch livestream.](#)



### 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.*

**CYPRESS FAIRBANKS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



# 89<sup>TH</sup>

## TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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### **BILLS TO WATCH**

#### **HOUSE**

- **CSHB 4 (Buckley): Assessment and accountability** (voted out of House Pub. Ed. on 4/30)
  - Eliminates STAAR and replaces with a nationally norm-referenced test in Math, Reading, and Science
  - Eliminates 8th grade social studies and US History assessments; requires TEA to adopt optional assessments
  - Does not require stand-alone essay or extended constructive response components
  - Establishes through-year progress monitoring assessment system – BOY, MOY, and EOY
  - Maintains A-F rating system, including three domains
  - Incorporates optional local indicators
    - Workforce development (all levels)
    - Early childhood readiness – participation in full-day Pre-K
    - Student engagement in extra/co-curricular
    - Completion rates of the literacy and math achievement academies
    - Advancement for high achievers
  - Prohibits the use of PK-2 assessments for accountability purposes
  - Broadens CCMR to include
    - verified enlistment,
    - passing score, as determined by Commissioner, on ASVAB, or
    - completion of JROTC
  - Requires accountability rules be finalized by July 15 each year
  - Modifies graduation rates and CCMR to begin with the incoming freshmen class
  - Requires legislative approval for any major accountability changes to domains and/or indicators
- **HB 54 (Gerdes): F.U.R.R.I.E.S.** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Forbids non-human behaviors in Texas schools
- **HB 775 (Frank): UIL participation** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Modifies current statute regarding homeschool participation in UIL activities
- **HB 3369 (Louderback): Removal of spectators** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Allows referees and officials to eject a spectator for inappropriate behavior without a warning
- **HB 850 (Lalani): AEDs** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Requires availability of automatic external defibrillators and a cardiac emergency response plan to provide care within 3 minutes
- **HB 1249 (Zwiener): Writing assessment** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Allows the use of a writing portfolio assessment to assess writing performance instead of the non-multiple-choice portion of the English I and II EOCs
- **HB 1405 (Reynolds): Bullying** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Expands definition of bullying and includes AI cyberbullying
- **HB 2336 (Allen): Grievances** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/30)
  - Allows a school district employee's right to present a grievance to the Board of Trustees in person
- **HB 2757 (Frank): Admission age for children of foreign military** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/30)
  - Allows the Board of Trustees to adopt a policy allowing children of foreign military stationed in Texas to establish their age when they turn during the school year
- **HB 3372 (Metcalf): Business relations** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Prohibits campus/district administrators from performing personal services or receiving financial benefit from any business that works with the district
- **HB 4442 (Bhojani): Mindfulness elective course** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/29)
  - Requires school districts to offer an elective course on mindfulness to students in middle through high school
- **HB 5606 (Wilson): Sick leave** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/30)
  - Transfers accrued state sick leave days of retiring district employees to a bank
  - Bank would be available for any employee who has exhausted sick leave per policy
- **SB 10 (King): Ten Commandments** (passed Senate on 3/19; left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/30)
  - Requires school districts to display a copy of the Ten Commandments in every classroom if posters or funds for the purchase of the posters are donated
- **SB 24 (Campbell): Social studies curriculum** (passed Senate on 3/16; left pending in House Pub. Ed. 4/30)
  - Amends TEKS to include an understanding of communist regimes and ideologies
- **HB 1079 (Curry): JROTC** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 5/1)
  - Includes Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Leadership Officer Training Corps programs as public school career and technology education programs and the indicator of achievement for military readiness under the public school accountability system
- **HB 3651 (LaHood): Automobile maintenance curriculum** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 5/1)
  - Allows districts to offer an elective course on automobile maintenance
- **HB 4980 (Wilson): Child-Care curriculum** (left pending in House Pub. Ed. 5/1)
  - Requires the establishment of the Child-Care Professional Pathway program

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

# 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.

