



89TH

PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MAY 19, NO. 11

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!

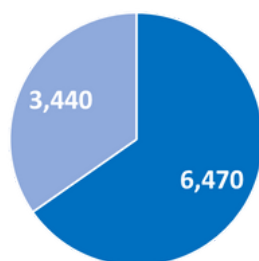


BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

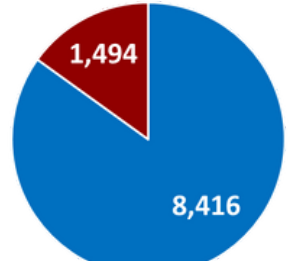
9,910
total bills filed

1,494
public education bills filed

■ House
■ Senate



■ Other
■ Education



GOVERNOR SIGNED INTO LAW

- **CSSB 2 (Creighton): Education Savings Accounts** (Gov. signed on 5-3)
 - 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** (Gov. signed on 5-6)
 - Repeals the State Virtual Schools Network and allows school districts to offer individual virtual courses, full-time virtual schools and full-time hybrid schools



BILLS TO WATCH

SENT TO GOVERNOR

- **SB 2929 (Creighton): Spectator Behavior** (Sent to Gov. on 5-15)
 - Clarifies that a verbal warning and persistent inappropriate behavior are not required for a referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular athletic activity to eject a spectator from the activity or competition

IMPORTANT!

Senate CSHB 2 (Buckley/Creighton): School Finance (Left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 5-15)

*****NOTE: This is a BRIEF summary of the 225 page Committee Substitute*****

Key Bills Consolidated in SCSHB 2

- SB 26: Teacher Retention Allotment
 - SB 2253: Teacher Preparation and Certification
 - SB 27: Teacher Bill of Rights
 - SB 2252 and HB 123: Early Literacy and Numeracy
 - SB 1826 and HB 120: Career and Technical Education
 - SB 260: School Safety Allotment
 - SB 568: Special Education Allotment
-
- Basic Allotment
 - \$55 increase in Basic Allotment, totaling \$6,215 (reallocates \$800 million from Golden Penny Yield increase)
 - Teacher Retention Allotment
 - Establishes the Teacher Retention Allotment based on the size of the district and the experience of the teacher
 - \$2,500 for teacher with 3 or 4 years of experience (5,000+ students)
 - \$5,500 for a teacher with 5 years or more of experience (5,000+ students)
 - Special Education Allotment
 - Expands TEA's authority to implement special education law and oversight of school districts
 - Transitions to intensity of service intensity -based system – service intensity tier of support and a service group funding level – effective 2026-2027
 - Establishes an allotment of \$1,000/student for initial full and individual evaluation
 - Transportation Allotment
 - Increases the special education transportation rate to \$1.13 per mile
 - School Safety Allotment
 - Increases the School Safety and Security Allotment
 - Increases the allotment from \$10 to \$20/ADA
 - Increases the per-campus allotment from \$15,000 to \$34,000





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BILLS TO WATCH

SCSHB 2 Cont'd

- College, Career, Military Readiness
 - Doubles the CCMR bonus for special education students to \$4,000
 - Adds JROTC as course eligible for CTE funding
- Teacher Incentive Allotment
 - Allocates \$750 million for increases to the Teacher Incentive Allotment, effective 2026-2027
 - Adds an “Acknowledged” designation
 - Separates National Board Certification – own designation level
 - \$3,000 for Acknowledged and National Board Certification
 - Increases the allotment amount for Exemplary and Recognized to \$9,000 and \$5,000, respectively.
- Teacher Certification
 - Prohibits districts from hiring uncertified teachers in foundation courses; requires compliance beginning with the 2029-2030 school year
- Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership Program (PREP) Allotment
 - Creates a new program for the commissioner to facilitate partnerships with educator prep programs and school districts to provide preservice practice for teacher candidates in various certification areas
 - Allows districts to participate through “Grow-Your-Own” partnership programs
 - Each teacher completing preservice generates a base allotment from \$3,000 to \$24,000, increased based on high-needs/rural factors
 - Capped at 40 to 80 candidates per district
- Teacher Bill of Rights
 - Modifies job posting requirements from 10 days to five (5) days
 - Requires the Board of Trustees to adopt a policy that provides the option for a classroom teacher to elect not to take paid personal leave concurrently with unpaid leave for FMLA due to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of a child
 - Provides liability insurance for classroom teachers
 - \$10,000 for teacher with 5 years or more of experience
 - 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 several established reasons
 - Authorizes a hearing examiner to dismiss a hearing before completion of the hearing or make a written recommendation if:
 - Teacher requests the dismissal
 - District withdraws the proposed decision
 - Settlement is reached
 - Establishes the Retired Teacher Reimbursement Grant Program
 - Requires TEA to develop training and provide technical assistance to districts
 - Requires districts to provide notice of complaints to teachers or employees against whom a complaint was filed and provide sufficient opportunity to provide a written response.
 - Amends the teacher removal process
 - Requires that “as soon as practicable,” immediately inform teaching staff, including aides, who may be affected, of any threat made against the campus.
- Certification Reimbursement
 - Expands reimbursement for student certification exams from one to two
 - Expands reimbursement to include costs for fingerprinting or criminal history record review
 - Statewide cap of \$15 million; limits fingerprinting/criminal background to \$500,000
- Early Education Allotment
 - Expands the Early Education Allotment to all K-3 students = 0.01 X Basic Allotment (\$62.15)
 - Reallocates existing Early Education Allotment funding to districts offering full-day pre-k to access funding for additional half-day;
 - Requires districts to provide a stipend to teachers required to attend literacy and math academies if completed on off-contract time
- Early Literacy Intervention Allotment
 - Creates new allotment, \$250/student, for required reading intervention if student fails two consecutive assessments in grades K-3
 - Allotment limited to 10% of students enrolled in K-3, students receiving dyslexia services are not included
 - Establishes a \$400/student account to purchase private tutoring if a student
 - Fails two or more literacy assessments after beginning 1st grade
 - Are required to be provided accelerated instruction based on 3rd-grade STAAR performance





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BILLS TO WATCH

SCSHB 2 Cont'd

- Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Incentive
 - Lowers the required number of days in the district/campus calendar from 180 to 175
- Prekindergarten
 - Adds children of classroom teachers to the list of eligible students for state funding
 - Prohibits districts from charging tuition for ineligible students if a pre-k intermediary determines that a private provider has available capacity. Rules developed by the commissioner to determine the available
- Literacy and Math Achievement Academies
 - Removes the requirement for 7th and 8th grade teachers to receive instruction on reading assessments
 - Requires math teachers in grades K-8, principal, assistant principal, math instructional coach, and math interventionists to attend a teacher math achievement academy no later than 2030-2031
 - Requires districts to pay a stipend to teachers who complete literacy and math academies on off-contract time; the amount of the stipend established by commissioner and funded through the early education allotment
- Early Literacy and Numeracy Assessments
 - Requires literacy and numeracy assessments determined by the commissioner to be administered to students
 - Kinder: MOY and EOY
 - 3rd grade: BOY and MOY
 - 1st and 2nd grade: BOY, MOY, and EOY

SENATE

- **SB 2529 (Bettencourt): Bonds** (Voted out of Senate on 5-6; Scheduled for House Ways & Means on 5-19)
 - Requires approval from 60% of the Board of Trustees to approve any bond proposition and 80% of the Board's approval for bond proposition or maintenance & operations tax increase if propositions were rejected in the previous year.
- **SB 4/SJR 2 (Bettencourt): Homestead Exemptions** (Voted out of Senate on 2-13; Sent to Calendars on 5-10)
 - Increases the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000
 - Contingent on passage of constitutional amendment in November 2025
- **CSSB 12 (Creighton): Parental Bill of Rights & DEI** (Voted out of Senate on 3-19; Left pending in House Pub. Ed. on 5-13)
 - Prohibits infringement of parental rights
 - Establishes the transfer of a student to any district in the state for in-person instruction based on available capacity
 - Requires districts to post facility information (i.e. sq. footage, usage, etc.)
 - Prohibits DEI practices
- **SB 1191 (Creighton): Standard method for calculation GPA** (Left pending in House Pub. Ed. on 5-13)
 - Requires the Commissioner to develop a standard method for calculating GPA and requires the inclusion of equal weights for each honors course, AP, IB, OnRamps dual enrollment, and dual credit
- **SB 2617 (Campbell et al): AD/BC Dates in Curriculum** (Voted out of Senate on 5-15)
 - Requires the board of trustees to adopt a policy requiring the use of the terms Anno Domini (AD) and Before Christ (BC) when expressing dates during student instruction
 - Prohibits districts from purchasing or selecting curriculum materials that express dates in a manner inconsistent with the policy
- **SB 207 (Paxton): Excused absences** (Voted out of Senate in 4-1; Placed on General State Calendar for 5-19)
 - Adds mental health care appointments as an excused absence for certain students
- **SB 1049 (King): Excused absence for "Released Time Course"** (Left pending in House Pub. Ed. on 5-15)
 - Requires a school district to excuse a student to attend a "released time course" for at least one but not more than five hours a week.
 - "Released time course" is defined as a course in religious instruction offered by a private entity.
- **SB 991 (Bettencourt): Attendance** (Placed on House General State Calendars on 5-20)
 - Defines chronically absent as a student absent from school for more than 10% of the school's required operation and instructional time within a school year or an enrollment period that exceeds 30 instructional days.
 - Adds chronically absent students and certain students with 10 or more absences within a 6-month period to the definition of "at risk."
 - Requires the reporting of "chronically absent" students through PEIMS
- **CSSB 13 – Paxton: Library Materials** (Voted out of Senate on 3-19-25; Reported out of House Public Education Committee on 5-16)
 - Increases parental rights and awareness related to school library materials and standards related to content in library materials
- **SB 204 (Paxton): Parental Rights** (Scheduled for hearing in House Public Education Committee on 5-20)
 - Requires TEA to create a parental rights handbook
 - Mandates the board of trustees complete parental rights training



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BILLS TO WATCH

SENATE Cont'd.

- **SB 205 (Paxton): Fetal development instruction** (Referred to House Pub. Ed. on 5-14)
 - Requires the SBOE to adopt rules requiring 7th and 8th grade students to receive instruction on fetal development as part of the health TEKS; and students in other grade levels
 - Instruction must include information on the human reproductive process, pregnancy, and infertility and the prevention of birth defects, including information on the effect of drugs, alcohol, and environmental hazards such as lead; and a description of the growth and development of an unborn child that occur during each trimester of pregnancy
- **SB 2928 (Creighton): School Start Date** (Placed on Senate Intent Calendar on 5-14)
 - Removes modifications to the school day or year, including the first day of instruction, as an option for a District of Innovation Plan
 - Modifies the mandatory school start date to the third Wednesday in August, if the district is designated as a District of Innovation
- **CSSB 2398 (Campbell): Concussion Accommodations** (Left pending in House Public Education Committee on 5-15)
 - Instructs TEA to create a list of nonmedical academic accommodations for concussions and other traumatic brain injuries and allow districts to opt in to provide accommodations
 - Instructs TEA to develop a form for participating districts
 - Requires the form be accessible to districts, teachers, administrators, students and parents
 - Outlines concussion notification procedures for districts providing accommodations
- **SB 965 (Parker): Right to Religious Speech/Prayer** (Sent to Calendars on 5-15)
 - Codifies the right of school employees to engage in religious speech or prayer while on duty.
- **SB 570 (Bettencourt): Attendance** (Scheduled for hearing in House Pub. Ed. Committee on 5-20)
 - Requires school districts to adopt and implement an attendance policy that includes the following
 - Informs parents and students about the importance of regular attendance
 - Provides appropriate supports to students who fail to regularly attend
 - Consequences of nonattendance
- **SB 735 (Menedez): Holocaust** (Scheduled for hearing in House Pub. Ed. Committee on 5-20)
 - Amends current law relating to Holocaust education and training
- **SB 2928 (Creighton): 1st Day of School** (Voted out of Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 5-8; Placed on Senate Intent Calendar on 5-14)
 - Removes modifications to the school day or year, including the first day of instruction, as an option for a District of Innovation Plan
 - Modifies the mandatory school start date to the third Wednesday in August, if the district is designated as a District of Innovation

HOUSE

- **CSHB 6 (Leach): Student Discipline** (Passed out of House 4-16; Vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 on 5-15)
 - Clarifies that the three-day limit on suspension only applies to out-of-school suspensions;
 - Prohibits in-school suspensions from exceeding 10 school days
 - Revises the conduct on or off school property in which students in grades below third grade can be placed in out-of-school suspension
 - Repeals the DAEP requirement for students who possess, use, sell, give, or deliver an e-cigarette
 - Requires a DAEP placement for no less than 30 days for conduct that contains the elements of assault or terroristic threat against an employee
 - Requires parents to attend specified meetings and conferences for teacher review of the student's progress
- **CSHB 1481 (Fairly): Personal Devices** (Scheduled hearing Senate Ed. K-16 on 5-20)
 - Requires Board of Trustees to adopt, implement, and ensure the district/campus complies with a written policy prohibiting students from using "personal wireless communication devices" while on school property during instructional day.
 - Requires the policy to include disciplinary measures for violations
 - Authorizes the policy to provide for the confiscation of personal communication devices
 - Personal communication devices include telephone, cell phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication
 - Personal communication device does NOT include a device provided by the district
- **HB 27 (King): Personal Financial Literacy** (Voted out of House on 4-23-25; Referred to Senate Education K-16 on 5-16)
 - Requires personal financial literacy that meets one-half of social studies credit
 - Modifies economics to one full credit as an option for third social studies credit

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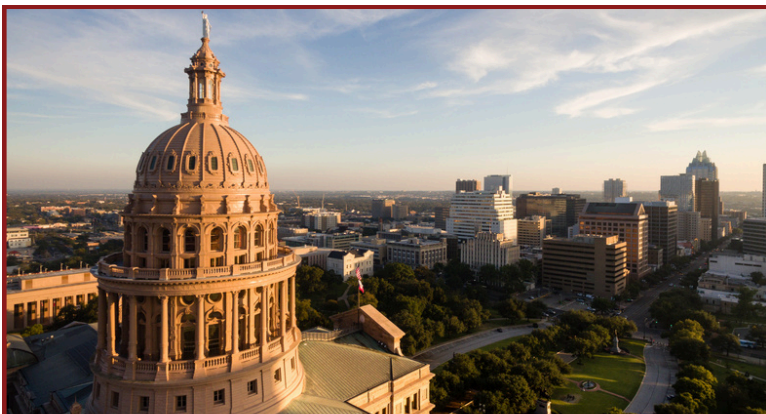
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HOUSE Cont'd.

- **HB 4 (Buckley): Accountability** (Passed out of House on 5-13; Referred to Senate Ed. K-16 on 5-14)
 - Testing Reform
 - Eliminates STAAR and replaces it 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 for use by districts
 - Eliminates stand-alone essay or extended constructive response components
 - Establishes through the year monitoring assessment system – BOY, MOY, and EOY
 - Accountability Reform
 - Maintains A-F rating system, including three domains
 - Incorporates optional local indicators
 - Prohibits use of PK-2 assessments for accountability purposes
 - Broadens military readiness to include
 - Verified enlistment in armed forces or National Guard
 - Passing score on ASVAB, as established by the Commissioner
 - Completion of JROTC
 - Requires that 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 2849 (Allen): Recess** (Passed out of House on 5-7)
 - Establishes a framework for model recess policies to be developed by the Department of State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee
 - Requires board to adopt a policy based on the model developed
 - Policy must explicitly state the minimum weekly unstructured playtime and whether recess may be withheld as a disciplinary action.
- **HB 3312 (Swanson): Special Ed. Recordings** (Reported out of House Pub. Ed. on 5-9; Sent to Calendars on 5-13)
 - Requires a school district to retain video recordings for at least 12 months
 - Prohibits limiting the number of times an involved parent/employee may view an incident
 - Requires a school district to retain all available video recordings of an employee who is involved in an alleged incident that has been reported to the district or school, regardless of whether the recording documents the incident, until the incident has been resolved, including the exhaustion of all appeals
- **HB 1411 (Allen): Personal leave** (Passed out of House on 5-7)
 - Allows an exempt employee with available personal leave to use the leave for a day designated as a school holiday for which the employee would otherwise not receive compensation
 - Restricts the use to no more than two personal leave days per year
- **HB 1773 (Bhojani): Student on School Board** (Passed out of House on 5-7)
 - Allows a school district to appoint a student trustee
 - The term and how it is selected is determined by the Board of Trustees
 - Student trustee has the same powers and duties as a member of the board, including the right to attend and participate in open meetings, except the student trustee
 - May NOT vote on any matter before the board or make or second any motion
 - Is not counted in determining whether a quorum is present
- **HB 1405 (Reynolds): Bullying** (Voted out of House Pub. Ed. on 5-9; Sent to Calendars on 5-14)
 - Defines reporting procedures, including to TEA
 - Requires district to provide supportive measures
 - Establishes investigation procedures
- **HB 1249 (Zwiener): Writing Portfolio** (Voted out of House on 5-14; Postponed 5-15)
 - Allows districts to use a writing portfolio to assess writing performance instead of the portion of the reading, English I, or English II STAAR that is not multiple choice
 - Requires the assessment to be developed with an institution of higher learning and submitted to TEA for approval
- **HB 4442 (Bhojani): Mindfulness course** (Reported out of House Pub. Ed on 5-6; Sent to Calendars on 5-14)
 - Requires districts to offer an elective course to secondary students on mindfulness





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BILLS TO WATCH

HOUSE Cont'd.

- **HB 3372 (Metcalf): Personnel Services** (Passed out of House on 5-15)
 - Prohibits an administrator from performing personal services or receiving any financial benefit for the performance of personal services
 - for any business that does business with the district;
 - an education entity that provides curriculum services or administration of the district;
 - another school district, charter, regional service center or public or private institution of higher education
 - Violations are subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each violation
- **HB 1368 (Jones): Parental Notification** (Passed out of House on 5-13)
 - Mandates a parental notification when a nurse, school counselor, or librarian is not present at the school during instructional hours
 - Notification is required if the campus does not have a full-time staff member in one of these roles for 30 consecutive instructional days within the same school year



WATCH THE LEGISLATURE ONLINE

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



DATES OF INTEREST

- ~~May 12, 2025: Last day for House Committees to report HB~~
- ~~May 16, 2025: Last day for the House to vote out HB~~
- May 24, 2025: Last day for House Committees to report SB
- May 28, 2025: Last day for the House to vote out SB; Last day for the Senate to consider all bills
- June 2, 2025 Sine Die
- June 22, 2025 Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed



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.
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- Scan the QR code to access this tool.



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COMMUNICATION TIPS

89th Legislative Session

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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

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Rep. Harless, Sam - District 126

Capitol Address:
Room E2.810
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0496
(512) 463-1507 Fax

District Address:
15900 Stuebner Airline Rd.,
Spring, TX 77379
(281) 251-0194

Bills Authored/Sponsored:
Authorized/Included:
• Joint (P)
• Co-Author (P)
Sponsored/Included:
• Joint (P)
• Co-Sponsored (P)

Committees:
Community Safety, Select
Health Care Reform, Select
Homeland Security & Public Safety
House Administration
Licensing & Administrative Procedures

District 126 Analyses:
District Map (PDF)
District Profile Reports:
• (PDF)
• Population Analysis
• (PDF)
• School Districts (PDF)
• Precincts within Districts (PDF)
• Election Analysis (PDF)
• ZIP Codes by District (PDF)

Counties Represented:
Harris (part)

Email

- 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

Texas Legislature Online

Session Times

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Committee Schedules
Meeting Time, Location, Agenda

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How to Register, Account Maintenance

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Clerk Info, Membership

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Bill Lookup

- 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.

