



89TH

PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MARCH 21, NO. 4

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!

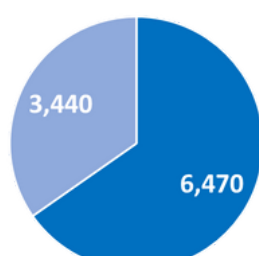


BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

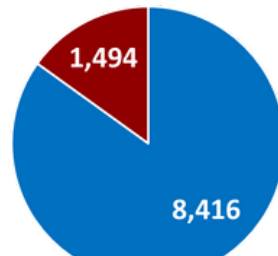
9,910
total bills filed

1,494
public education bills filed

■ House
■ Senate



■ Other
■ Education



BILLS TO WATCH

SENATE

- **SB 686 (Paxton): Transfers** (reported favorably out of Senate Education K-16 Committee on 3/17)
 - Establishes the transfer of a student to any school district in the state
 - Contingent on available capacity, discipline
- **SB 11 (Middleton): Prayer** (voted out of Senate on 3/18; received in House on 3/19)
 - Requires the Board of Trustees to take a record vote on a policy to designate a period of prayer and reading the bible or other religious text at every campus
- **SB 260 (Huffman): Safety Allotment** (passed Senate on 3/12; sent to House on 3/13)
 - Increases School Safety Allotment from \$10 to \$28 per ADA
 - Increases from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per campus
- **SB 10 (King): Ten Commandments** (passed Senate on 3/19)
 - 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 569 (Bettencourt): Virtual Students** (voted out of Senate on 3/13; received in House on 3/18)
 - Repeals the State Virtual Schools Network and allows school districts to offer individual virtual courses, full-time virtual schools and full-time hybrid schools
 - Requires school districts to allow students enrolled in full-time or hybrid programs to participate in extracurricular and UIL activities
 - Prohibits school districts from requiring classroom teachers to provide virtual and in-person instruction for a course simultaneously

HOUSE

- **HB 3 (Buckley): Education Savings Accounts** (left pending in House Public Ed. Committee on 3/12)
 - 85% of the estimated average funding per student in average daily attendance
 - Not to exceed \$30,000 for students in special education program
 - \$2,000 per year for homeschooled students
 - Prioritizes low-income households and children with disabilities
 - Administered by the Comptroller
- **HB 6 (Leach): Student discipline** (left pending in House Public Ed. Committee on 3/18)
 - Amends terms of student suspension, including specific offenses, age restrictions and would prescribe alternative education options for students with disabilities. The bill would also repeal certain sections of current law related to alternative placements.
- **HB 1481 (Fairly, Buckley, Talarico, Patterson): Cell phones** (left pending in House Public Ed. committee on 3/18)
 - Prohibits students from using “personal wireless communication devices” during instructional time
- **HB 27 (King): Financial literacy** (left pending in House Public Ed. committee on 3/18)
 - Requires personal financial literacy that meets one-half social studies credit
 - Modifies economics to one full credit as an option for third social studies credit
- **HB 124 (Bonnen): School Safety Allotment** (scheduled for hearing 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 8 (Meyer): Maximum Compressed Rate** (left pending in House Ways & Means committee on 3/3; reported favorably on 3/10)
 - Reduces the Maximum Compressed Rate (MCR) by an additional \$0.0331 for the 2025-26 school year



OTHER CAPITOL NEWS

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick released his second round of priority bills, which included two that would impact public education:

- Senate Bill 26 – Increasing Teacher Pay
- Senate Bill 27 – Establishing a Teacher Bill of Rights

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



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CFISD AT THE CAPITOL

Dr. Doug Killian, CFISD superintendent of schools, recently provided testimony to both the Senate Committee on Education on March 11 (SB 568 - HS Special Education) and the House Committee on Public Education on March 18 (HB 6 - Student Discipline). Click the images below to watch video of his testimony and Q&A.

SENATE TESTIMONY (SB 568)



HOUSE TESTIMONY (HB 6)

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, March 25, 8:00 a.m.

- House Public Education Committee Hearing: [watch livestream](#).
- HB 7: Parental Rights
- HB 100: Instructional Materials
- HB 121: School Safety
- HB 124: School Safety Allotment
- HB 1175: Student Transcripts
- HB 1458: Armed Security Officers
- HB 2249: Teacher Retention

Thursday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.

- House Subcommittee on Academic & Career-Oriented Education: [watch livestream](#).
- HB 117: Early Childhood Education
- HB 2196: Virtual Education
- HB 2689: Workforce Readiness



Dr. Killian meets with Rep. Diego Bernal, vice chair of the House Public Education Committee, on March 18.

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.



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CYPRESS FAIRBANKS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

11440 Matzke Rd. Cypress, TX 77429 • 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

89th Legislature Regular Session
Texas Legislature Online

Home | My TLO | House | Senate | Legislation | Search | Committees | Calendars

Search Legislation
Legislature: [89(4) - 2023]
Word/Phrase Bill Number
Go

Additional Searches
Text Search Statutes
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
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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. 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:
Submit Privacy Policy

- 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.

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
89th Legislature
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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

Calendars
Floor Calendars, Agendas

Committee Schedules
Meeting Time, Location, Agenda

Committee Requests for Information
Request Notices and Responses

House Witness Registration
How to Register, Account Maintenance

Committees
Clerk Info, Membership

Members
Contact Info, Committee Assignments

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.

