



89TH

PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

APRIL 4, NO. 6

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!

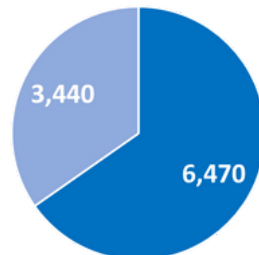


BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

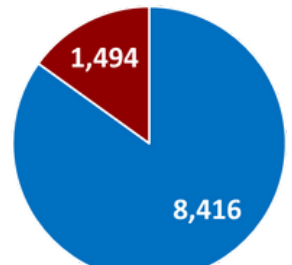
9,910
total bills filed

1,494
public education bills filed

■ House
■ Senate



■ Other
■ Education



BILLS TO WATCH

SENATE

- **CSSB 2 (Creighton): ESAs** (passed House Public Ed. Committee on 4/3)
 - Creates an Education Savings Account program
 - For the 2026-2027 school year, limits funding for students without disabilities in families making over 500% of the poverty level to no more than 20% of the expenditures and prioritizes students transitioning from public to private school over those already enrolled in private schools.
 - Student eligibility
 - Eligible to enroll in a public school
 - U.S. citizens
 - If more applications than available funding, a lottery prioritizes the following:
 - Siblings
 - Children who had not previously ceased participation and returned to public schools
 - Disability and in household below 500% of the poverty threshold
 - Incomes below 200% of the poverty threshold
 - Incomes between 200-500% of the poverty threshold
 - Incomes above 500% of the poverty threshold
 - Education Savings Account awards:
 - 85% of the estimated average funding per student in ADA
 - Not to exceed \$30,000 for students in special education program
 - \$2,000 per year for homeschooled student
 - Private school vendors must administer nationally norm-referenced or state assessments to students in grade 3 or above
- **SB 371 (Campbell): Parental Approval** (passed Senate on 4/1)
 - Requires written consent from a parent for a student's participation in human sexuality instruction in public schools
- **SB 533 (Sparks): Bond Elections** (passed Senate on 4/1)
 - Requires an election for the issuance of bonds or other debts or a tax increase to be held on the November uniform election date
- **SB 875 (Birdwell): Election Activities** (passed Senate on 4/1)
 - Creates a Class C misdemeanor if a member of the school board or superintendent uses funds for ISD resources, including district email, telephone, mailing list, or property, to electioneer for or against any candidate, measure, or political party
 - Creates a Class B misdemeanor if the chief administrator of an ISD campus, a principal, or a superintendent knowingly permits the posting of political signs for longer than 48 hours.
- **SB 965 (Parker/Bettencourt/Campbell/Creighton/Hall): Religious Speech** (passed Senate on 4/1)
 - Preserves the right of an employee of a school district or open-enrollment charter school to engage in religious speech or prayer while on duty
- **SB 762 (Campbell): Flags** (vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/3)
 - Campuses may only display the following flags on school property:
 - U.S. flag; state flag; flag that cannot be disturbed or altered due to archaeological or historical preservation as determined by the Texas Historical Commission; Prisoner of War or Missing in Action flag; Indian tribe; political subdivision; any unit, branch or other division of the armed forces of the U.S.; foreign country or political subdivision of that country; college or university; part of required curriculum (temporary); school's official flag
- **SB 1262 (Nichols): Peace Officers** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/1)
 - Broadens the definition of "peace officer"
 - Appointed by TEA
 - Allows TEA to commission peace officers, specifically to enforce safety regulations
 - Requires renewal of the good cause exemption for an armed officer on each campus and facilities standards
- **SB 1459 (Campbell): Cell Phones** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/1)
 - Requires district to adopt a policy prohibiting a student from possessing a personal communication device while on school property during the school day
 - May authorize possession during instructional time for instructional purposes or during noninstructional periods, such as lunch
- **SB 1962 (Bettencourt): Assessments** (vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee, 4/3)
 - Allows TEA's Technical Advisory Committee to determine if assessments are valid and reliable
 - Allows Commissioner to adopt accountability standards anytime prior to issuing ratings
 - Requires TEA to study CCMR indicators' correlations with postsecondary success, including industry certifications' correlation with wages and available jobs



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BILLS TO WATCH

SENATE cont'd.

- **SB 2252 (Creighton): Literacy & Math Academies** (vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/3)
 - Establishes literacy and math academies for grades K-13
 - Provides stipends for attendance
 - Makes significant amendments to reading diagnosis procedures
 - Mandatory for districts to utilize state-approved reading and math assessments
 - Establishes an allotment for student receiving reading interventions, parental support for early childhood development, and financial incentives for implementing additional instructional days.
- **SB 2253 (Creighton): Educator Certification** (vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/3)
 - Modifies educator preparation and certification
 - Limits use of DOI, especially for uncertified teachers
 - Establishes specific guidelines for hiring uncertified teachers
 - Establishes a timeline for ensuring teachers meet certification requirements by 2029-2030
 - Establishes new categories for teaching certificates
 - Mandates higher minimum salaries for teachers with certain certifications
- **SB 2365 (Creighton): Personal Wireless Communication** (vote taken in Senate Ed. K-16 Committee on 4/3)
 - Requires districts to adopt a policy prohibiting students from using personal wireless communication devices during instructional time
 - Requires that classrooms designate a secure, out-of-sight area for the storage of personal wireless communication devices during the instructional day.

HOUSE

- **CSHB 2 (Buckley): Public School Finance** (passed House Public Ed. Committee, 4/3)
 - Provides \$395 increase in Basic Allotment
 - Increases the percentage of the gain in funding for compensation increases from 30% to 40%
 - 75% of gains must be spent on salary increases for teachers
 - Remaining 25% may be used to increase compensation to other full-time district employees
 - Requires salary increases for teachers, prioritizing teachers with 10 or more years of experience
 - Requires the average salary increase for teachers with 10 or more years of experience to be 40% higher than the average salary increase for teachers with five (5) or more years of experience.
 - Allocates additional funding for the Teacher Incentive Allotment
 - 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.
 - Increases the Compensatory Education, Bilingual, and Special Education Allotments
 - Increases the special education transportation reimbursement rate
 - Establishes a Fine Arts Allotment
 - Prohibits districts from hiring uncertified teachers in foundation courses – multi-year implementation timeline



IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, April 8 - 8:00 a.m.

- House Public Education Committee Hearing: [watch livestream](#).
 - HB 367 (Rosenthal): Excused absences for life-threatening illnesses
 - HB 497 (Patterson): Parental consent for behavioral or mental health treatment
 - HB 1368 (Jones, Venton): Parent notification if no nurse, counselor or librarian assigned to campus during instructional hours
 - HB 2849 (Allen): Recess period in public schools
 - HB 2243 (Oliverson): Texas Commission on Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention
 - HB 2310 (Ordaz): Early learning opportunities for children with disabilities



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.



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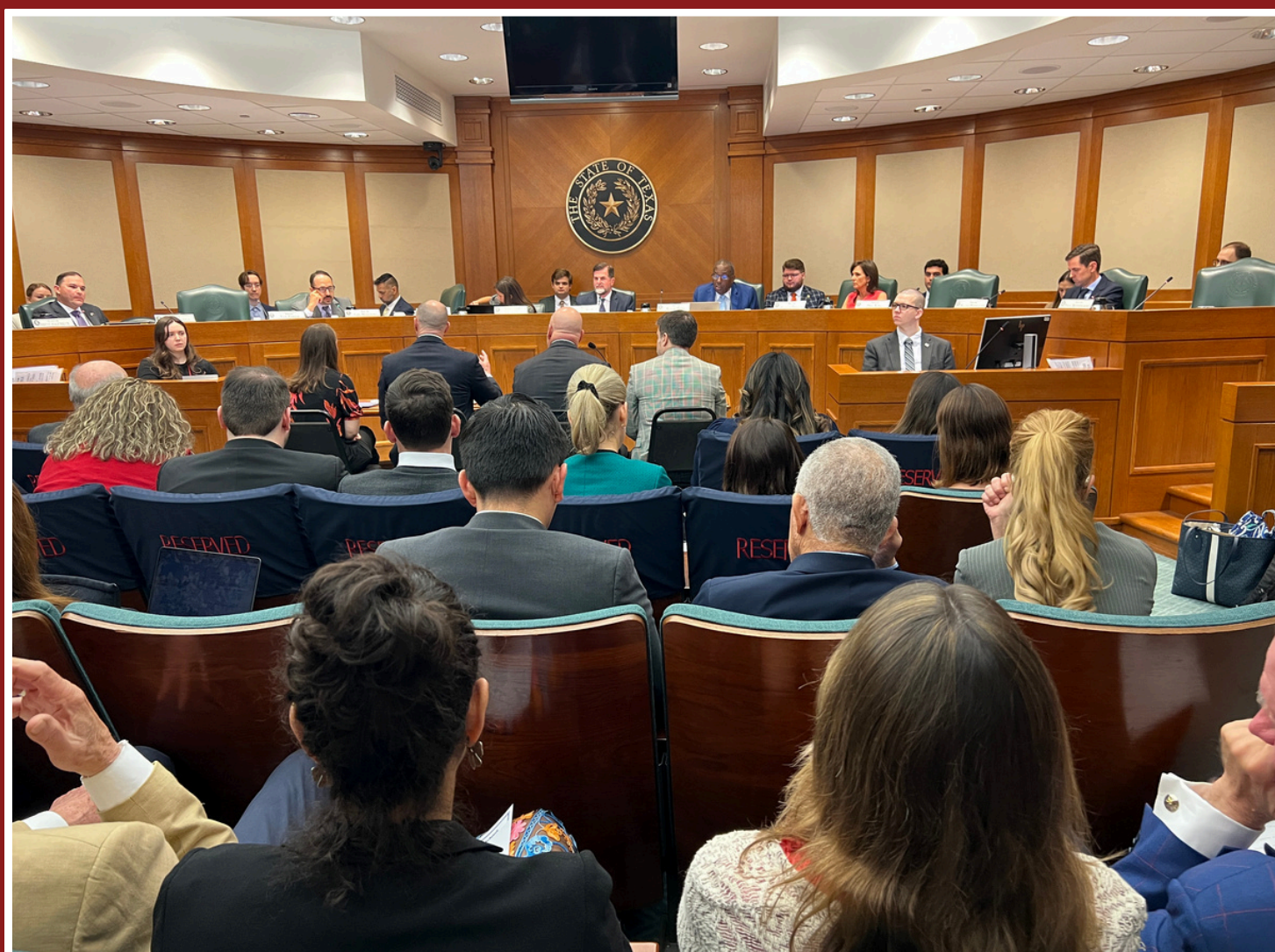
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CFISD AT THE CAPITOL



Teresa Hull, CFISD chief of staff, meets with Lauren Young, chief of staff for District 67 State Rep. Jeff Leach, during a visit to the Texas Capitol on April 1. Rep. Leach is a member of the House Public Education Committee.



The Senate Committee on Education K-16 meets on April 1.



The Texas Senate convenes in session on April 1.

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.

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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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.
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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.

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89th Legislature
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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

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.

