



# 89<sup>TH</sup>

## PRIORITIES FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

APRIL 25, NO. 8

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!

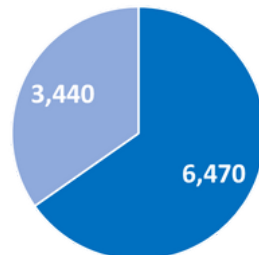


### BILLS BY THE NUMBERS

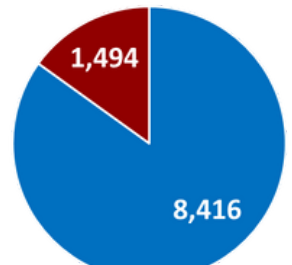
**9,910**  
total bills filed

**1,494**  
public education bills filed

■ House  
■ Senate



■ Other  
■ Education



### BILLS TO WATCH

#### SENT TO GOVERNOR

- **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
- **CSSB 2 (Creighton): Education Savings Accounts** (sent to Governor on 4-25)
  - 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.

#### SENATE

- **CSSB 260 (Huffman): Safety Allotment** (SB 260 passed Senate 3/12; committee substitute was amended to be identical to HB 124 and passed House 4-17)
  - Increases School Safety Allotment from \$10 to \$14 per ADA
  - Increases from \$15,000 to \$37,000 per campus
- **SB 1872 (Perry): Student Discipline** (passed out of Senate on 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Mandatory Expulsion, whether the conduct occurred "on school property or while attending a school-sponsored event."
    - Title V felonies
    - Kidnapping and burglary
    - Assault against school district employee or volunteer
    - Exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm or weapon
- **SB 1873 (Perry): Student Discipline** (passed out of Senate on 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Clarifies that in-school suspensions are not subject to a time limit.
- **SB 570 (Bettencourt): Attendance** (passed out of Senate on 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Requires school districts to adopt and implement an attendance policy
- **SB 991 (Bettencourt): Chronic Absenteeism** (passed out of Senate on 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - 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" and reported in PEIMS
- **CSSB 27 (Creighton) Teacher Bill of Rights** (passed out of Senate 4-3; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-17)
  - 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 teacher's family
  - Reasonable belief that the teacher had written permission from the district's administration to resign
  - Establishes the Retired Teacher Reimbursement Grant Program to reimburse districts who hire a teacher who retired before September 1, 2024
- **SB 1962 (Bettencourt): Assessment** (passed out of Senate on 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Moves all responsibility to TEA for creation of a balanced assessment system
  - Assessments must include, BOY, MOY, EOY
- **SB 2928 (Creighton): First day of school** (left pending in Senate Ed. K-16 4-22)
  - 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
- **SB 762 (Campbell): Display of flags in schools** (passed out of Senate 4-15; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Only certain flags may be displayed on school property



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### **BILLS TO WATCH**

#### **SENATE (cont.)**

- **SB 2365 (Creighton): Personal wireless devices** (passed out of Senate 4-15; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-17)
  - Requires district to adopt a policy prohibiting students from using personal wireless communication devices during instructional time
- **SB 11 (Middleton): Period of prayer** (passed out of Senate 3-18; referred to House State Affairs 4-17)
  - 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
  - Specifies that the designated time may not substitute for instructional time and may be before school
- **SB 1191 (Creighton): Standard computing of GPA** (passed out of Senate 4-16; referred to House Pub. Ed. 4-22)
  - Requires the Commissioner to develop a standard method for calculating GPA

#### **HOUSE**

- **CSHB 2 (Buckley): Public School Finance** (passed House 4/17; referred to Senate Ed. K-16 4-23)
  - 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, counselors, librarians, and nurses
    - 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.
  - Increases the hold harmless provision for declines in ADA of more than 2% from prior year; 98% of funding from prior year; \$300 million/year cap
  - Provides full-day ADA funding for qualifying Pre-K students; funded by reducing the Compensatory Education Allotment and the increase to the Early Education Allotment due to inclusion of Pre-K for each district by an amount to cover the full-day ADA.
  - Delays additional funding for the Teacher Incentive Allotment until 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.
  - Delays the Compensatory and Bilingual Education Allotments until 2026-2027
  - 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
- **HB 500 (Bonnen): Supplemental Budget** (passed out of House 4-11; referred to Senate Finance 4-16)
  - Includes \$934.5 million to offset lost revenue to school districts from changes at the federal level related to school health and related services for students (SHARS)
- **CSHB 121 (King): School Safety** (passed out of House 4-23)
  - Broadens the definition of peace officer
  - Allows TEA to commission peace officers, specifically to enforce safety regulations
  - Requires annual renewal of the good cause exception for an armed officer on each campus
  - Requires an employee to make reports of child abuse or neglect, including the trafficking of a child to both the Department of Family and Protective Services and a local or state law enforcement agency, other than the district's or school's police department, if the report is based on evidence that an employee engaged in unlawful act with a student or was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student.
- **CSHB 1458 (Metcalfe): School Safety** (passed out of House 4-17; referred to Senate Ed. K-16 4-23)
  - Expands the types of security officers mandated to be present at public schools during the instructional day to include
    - Reserve deputy sheriffs
    - Reserve police officer appointed by ISD police chief
    - Honorably retired peace officers
- **HB 100 (Leo Wilson): Instructional Materials** (identical to SB 451): (passed out of House 4-16)
  - Restricts the use of state and local funds for instructional materials that are
    - considered obscene or harmful
    - fails the necessary certification requirements
    - on SBOE list of rejected instructional materials



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### **BILLS TO WATCH**

#### **HOUSE (cont.)**

- **CSHB 6 (Leach): Student Discipline** (passed out of House 4-16)
  - 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
- **HB 20 (Gates): College/Career** (passed out of House 4-16; referred to Senate Ed. K-16 4-23)
  - Establishes the Applied Science Pathway Program
  - Allows students in grades 11 and 12 to concurrently earn a high school diploma and certifications in various high-demand industries, such as plumbing, electrical, welding, construction management, robotics and automation, refining, and oil and gas exploration.
  - Allows CTE and dual-credit courses taken through the program to substitute for high school graduation credits (no limit)
- **HB 120 (Bell): CTE** (passed out of House 4-16; referred to Senate Ed. K-16 4-23)
  - Expands CTE opportunities to include JROTC
- **HB 25 (Hull): PE/Recess** (Committee Substitute passed House Subcommittee on Disease Prevention and Women's & Children's Health on 4-17)
  - Increases PE requirements from four semesters to six for grades 6, 7, and 8.
  - Cannot restrict participation in PE as a penalty for academic performance or behavior.
  - Cannot restrict participation in recess or physical activities as a penalty for a student's academic performance or behavior in 6th grade or below.
- **HB 27 (King): Personal financial literacy course** (passed out of House 4-24)
  - 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
- **HB 2249 (Bernal): Texas Teacher Recruitment Scholarship** (passed out of House 4-24)
  - Offers conditional scholarships to eligible students enrolled in teacher preparation programs within Texas
  - Scholarships up to \$40,000 contingent upon specific criteria
- **HB 1481 (Fairly): Personal communication devices** (passed out of House 4-24)
  - 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
- **HB 1209 (Cunningham): Instructional days** (scheduled for hearing on 4-24)
  - Requires a minimum of 175 instructional days

### **WATCH THE LEGISLATURE ONLINE**

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

## 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)



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## CFISD AT THE CAPITOL



*Superintendent's Student Leadership Committee and district/campus administrators outside of the Texas Capitol on April 22*

*Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick  
talks about the history  
of the reception room  
and adjoining rooms  
and offices.*



*Superintendent  
Dr. Doug Killian,  
Reps. Lacey Hull &  
Dr. Tom Oliverson*

*Rep. Sam Harless  
meets with a group  
of students.*



*Rep. Mike Schofield  
visits with students  
about the CFISD  
Local Optional  
Homestead  
Exemption.*



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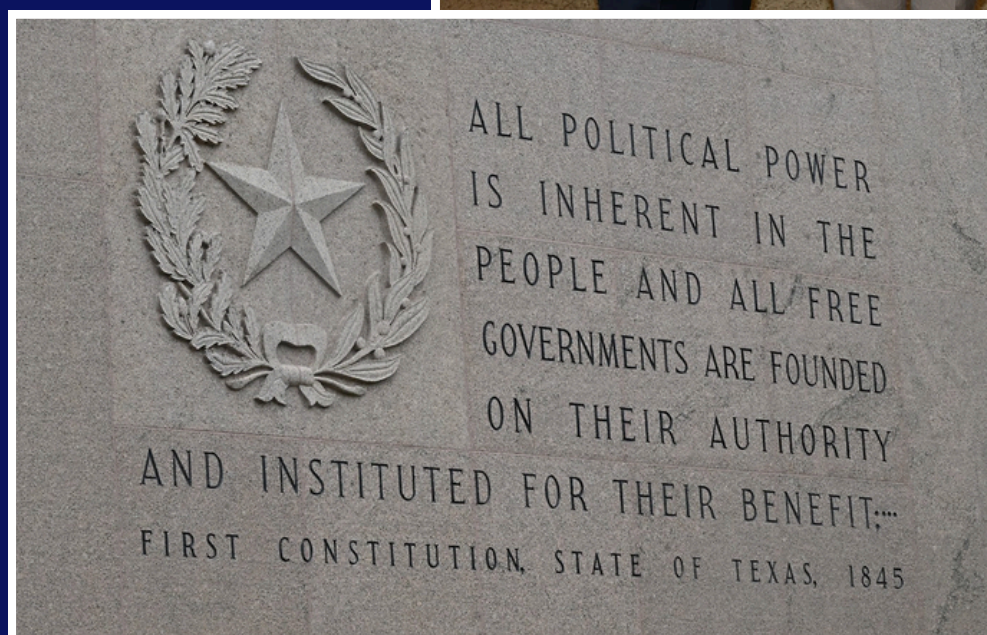
*HS principals  
Dr. Lanette Bellamy  
(Cy Lakes) &  
Martin Drayton  
(Cy Creek) with students*



*Principal  
Maggie Wiley  
(Jersey Village)  
with a Falcon  
student*



*Principal Dr. Abe  
Lozano (Cy Ridge),  
assistant  
superintendent Chris  
Hecker & Principal  
Rich Dixon  
(Bridgeland)*





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## CFISD AT THE CAPITOL

Dr. Doug Killian, CFISD superintendent of schools, and Eric Mendez, CFISD chief of police, both provided testimony on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 to the House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services on HB 4029 (retirement benefits for law enforcement officers who are members of TRS). Click the images below to watch video of their testimony and Q&A.

### DR. KILLIAN TESTIMONY (HB 4029)



### CHIEF MENDEZ TESTIMONY (HB 4029)



*SSLC students and CFISD leaders with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (above) and Reps. Oliverson and Hull (below).*



# 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  
Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts  
Subscribe to RSS Feeds  
View Content on Mobile Device  
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](http://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.

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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)  
• (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](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.

