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# TEA Monthly Superintendent Call 89th Legislature Updates

*September 18, 2025*  
<https://tea.texas.gov/89th>

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Bill Number	Primary Topic	Abridged Bill Caption
HB 2: Art 1	Finance: Compensation	Relating to public education finance: Educator Compensation and Retention Supports
HB 2: Art 2	Finance: Preparation	Relating to public education finance: Educator Preparation and Certification
HB 2: Art 3	Finance: Educator Rights	Relating to public education finance: Educator Bill of Rights
HB 2: Art 4	Finance: Special Education	Relating to public education finance: Special Education Supports (see also SB 568)
HB 2: Art 5	Finance: Early Literacy & Numeracy	Relating to public education finance: Supporting Early Childhood Education
HB 2: Art 6	Finance: CTE	Relating to public education finance: College, Career, and Military Readiness (see also HB 120)
HB 2: Art 7	Finance: Finance & Safety	Relating to public education finance: School Finance and School Safety (see also SB 260)
HB 6	Discipline	Relating to discipline management and access to telehealth mental health services in public schools.
HB 20	Applied Sciences Pathway	Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.
HB 121	School Safety	Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety and security requirements
SB 843	Bond Database	Relating to a TEA database of district and charter school bonds, taxes, and bond-related projects.
SB 1453	I&S Rates	Relating to the current debt rate and tax rate of a taxing unit for ad valorem tax purposes.
SB 4 & SB 23	Homestead Exemption	Relating to an increase in the homestead exemption, including of a person who is elderly or disabled.
HB 1522	Open Meetings & Budgets	Relating to notice of a meeting held under the open meetings law.
SB 401	UIL for Homeschoolers	Relating to participation by non-enrolled students in UIL-sponsored activities.
SB 2	ESAs	Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.
SB 569	Virtual/Hybrid Learning	Relating to the provision of virtual education, including alternative methods of calculating ADA.



Bill Number	Primary Topic	Abridged Bill Caption
SB 571	Misconduct Reporting	Relating to the persons who are not eligible for employment at public schools.
HB 4623	Misconduct Liability	Relating to liability of public schools and school employees for certain injuries to students.
HB 1481	Cellphones	Relating to the use of personal wireless communication devices by students during instructional time.
HB 33	Uvalde Strong	Relating to active shooter incidents at school facilities and other emergencies.
SB 12	Grievances	Relating to parental rights and to certain public school requirements and prohibitions.
SB 204	Parental Rights	Relating to a handbook and trustee training on parental rights.
SB 13	Library Books	Relating to a library materials, library advisory councils, and parental rights.
HB 100	Rejected Instructional Material	Relating to the purchase, adoption, and use of instructional materials by public schools.
SB 10	Ten Commandments	Relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.
SB 11	School Prayer	Relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts in public schools.
SB 1191	GPA Calculations	Relating to the development of a standard method of computing a student's high school GPA.
HB 27	Personal Financial Literacy	Relating to courses in personal financial literacy for high school students in public schools.
SB 2314	College Applications	Relating to the My Texas Future portal to facilitate student applications to higher education.
SB 991	Chronic Absenteeism	Relating to the inclusion of chronically absent and truant students in data reporting.
HB 3372	Personal Services by Administrators	Relating to prohibiting certain personal services performed by administrators; providing a civil penalty.
HB 4687	Charter Schools	Relating to the applicability of certain immunity and liability laws to charter school boards.
SB 1173	Purchasing Threshold	Relating to the amount required for competitive procurement.
HB 8 (2 <sup>nd</sup> called)	Accountability & Assessment	Relating to public school accountability and transparency

# HB 2 (incl SB 568, HB 120, SB 260) and SB 569 increased school funding formulas in several ways

## School boards determine:

- **how funds are spent** within a district, and
- **whether extra funding** streams are accessed by a district

In total, the factors under a district's control can increase M&O funds generated by well **over 15%**

## Many different funding components make up total M&O funding

### SPENDING-BASED

- Teacher Retention Allotment
- Transportation Allotment
- TRS On-Behalf
- Special Ed Evals
- NIFA

### DISTRICT-BASED

- Small and Mid-Sized
- Fast Growth
- School Safety per Campus
- Regional Wind Insurance

Items in green were created or expanded by the 89<sup>th</sup> legislature

- Special Education changing to Spending-Based in 2026-27

### ATTENDANCE-BASED

- Basic Allotment
- Early Education Allotment
- School Safety per ADA
- Career and Technology
- Special Education\*
- Bilingual Education
- Support Staff Retention Allotment

### ENROLLMENT-BASED

- Compensatory Education
- Allotment for Basic Costs
- TIMA
- Gifted & Talented
- Dyslexia

### DISTRICT ACTION-DEPENDENT

- Teacher Incentive Allotment
- CTE Sequences
- CCMR Outcomes Bonus
- P-TECH
- College Readiness Assessments
- IBCs
- R-PEP
- PREP: Mentor Program
- PREP: Grow Your Own
- PREP: Preservice Teachers
- Dual Language
- Additional Days School Year
- SB 1882 Partnerships
- Resource (ACE) Campuses
- Non-Enrolled UIL Participation
- HQIM (SBOE & OER)
- Blended Learning
- Hybrid Learning
- Dropout Recovery
- Day Placement Campus
- Reading Intervention Allotment
- K-3 Reading Summer School
- PreK (direct & partnership)

### TAX RATE-DEPENDENT

- Tier I Tax Rate
- Tier II Tax Rate
- LOHE



## HB 2: School Finance

### Article 1 Educator Compensation and Retention Supports

- Creates the Teacher Retention Allotment providing for \$2.5k / \$5k raises for 3-4 / 5+ year teachers in districts over 5000 students, and \$4k / \$8k for districts with fewer than 5000 students.
- Creates the Support Staff Retention Allotment of \$45 per adjusted ADA.
- TIA Changes:
  - Creates new "acknowledged" designation within TIA to expand to four total designations – *Effective beginning in the 2026-2027 school year*
  - Increases TIA allotment payouts, with top teachers generating up to \$36,000 - *Effective beginning in the 2026-2027 school year*
  - Creates a review process to ensure alignment with National Board Certification as a part of the Teacher Incentive Allotment and provides more support for districts to increase eligibility for TIA.
  - Expands TIA technical assistance and provides grants for administrative support.
  - Creates a new district-level designation "Enhanced TIA" for districts who go further and create strategic compensation systems that include all teachers and school leaders and align compensation systems to performance.
- Requires TEA to contract to provide state-supported, low-cost options for liability insurance for teachers



## HB 2: School Finance

### Article 2 Educator Preparation and Certification

- Limits DOI exception of uncertified teachers: Must be certified in K-5 Reading and Math in 26-27, then Reading/Math/Science/Social Studies K-12 in 27-28; Districts can apply for an extension until 29-30
- \$1K grant per uncertified teacher who is certified by end of 26-27. Must have been a first-year teacher during the 22-23 or 23-24 school year and uncertified as of 1/1/25.
- Expands access to District Teaching Permit with local boards having final approval for paraprofessional promotions
- Defines new high-quality preservice preparation pathways: residency, traditional, and preservice alternative
  - Differentiates between a new preservice alternative model and other alternative certification models
- Creates new Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Allotment:
  - Recruitment: New State Funding for Teacher Recruitment with Grow Your Own Programs:
    - Up to 40 prospective teacher candidates per LEA per year (LEA employees, paraprofessionals)
    - \$8-12K allotment per individual
    - Requires partnership with IHE, implementation of a HS E&T pathway, and time for GYO candidate coursework and practice
  - Preparation: New State Funding for Preparation, paying cost for training candidates before they begin teaching
    - Up to 40 paid residents per LEA per year (\$24-39.5K)
    - Up to 80 paid traditional student teachers or preservice alternative interns per LEA per year (\$10-21.5K)
  - Mentoring: Increase State Funding for New Teacher Mentoring
    - Up to 40 new teachers per LEA per year (\$3K)
- Requires school districts to pay novice starting teachers prepared via residency, traditional, and preservice alternative more than other novice starting teachers starting in the 2026-27, but have flexibility as to how
- Improves Teacher Prep Program Content including requiring Reading/Math Academies in funded teacher prep programs and applying a CRT ban to teacher prep



## HB 2: School Finance Article 3 Educator Bill of Rights

- Strengthens support for teachers to remove students from class if they, even one time, interfere with instruction, demonstrate disruptive behavior, or engage in bullying; eliminates teacher documentation requirement prior to removal
  - Student cannot be returned to class without the teachers written consent or without a return to class plan developed by a campus behavior coordinator; Student can appeal their removals.
- Requires LEA staff who may be directly affected by a threat to receive notification regarding a threat as soon as safe and practicable.
- Requires LEA staff to receive notification of and an opportunity to provide a written response to complaints against them.
- Teacher contract supports:
  - Standardized unpaid leave calculations, requires districts to provide teachers the option to not take paid leave at the same time as their entitled unpaid leave
  - Prevents SBEC from sanctioning educators that abandon their contract due to serious illness or health condition of the teacher or close family member, or relocation because the teacher's spouse or partner changes employers or employment locations
- Waives certification exam fees for the first time a teacher takes the bilingual or special education certification exam
- Streamlines English proficiency teacher certification exam retaking
- Provides Teacher Quality Assistance Grants for strategic compensation, staffing, scheduling, and behavior management support
- Directs TEA to collect additional data on teacher positions and vacancies to inform teacher retention and recruitment efforts



## HB 6: Student Discipline

- Single person designated as campus behavior coordinator; duties added for coordinator to monitor disciplinary referrals and report to threat assessment team certain behaviors and trends.
- Strengthens support for teachers to remove students from class if they, even one time, interfere with instruction, demonstrate disruptive behavior, or engage in bullying; eliminates teacher documentation requirement prior to removal
  - Student cannot be returned to class without the teachers written consent or without a return to class plan developed by a campus behavior coordinator; Student can appeal their removals.
  - Employee cannot be subject to disciplinary proceeding if reports Chapter 37 offenses or removes a student from classroom in good faith.
- Board may adopt a policy for parental involvement in disciplinary placements; could result in reduction in the period of placement if parent and student comply.
- In school suspension has no limit but must be reviewed every 10 school days.
- Changes to e-cigarette possession and use – if first time offense, can be ISS for 10 school days.
- Can expel in certain cases to a virtual expulsion program.
- Districts of innovation cannot exempt themselves from TEC Chapter 37.
- TEA must provide a report to LEAs by the start of the 2025-26 SY identifying law changes related to discipline, and school systems must provide that report to their parents.



## HB 2: School Finance

### Article 4 Special Education Supports

### SB 568: Special Education

- Board of Trustees must annually include a discussion of the performance of students receiving special education services (Effective 2025-2026 school year).
- NEW special education funding framework:
  - 8 tiers for the base special education allotment (2026-2027 SY).
  - At least 4 service groups (2026-2027 SY).
  - Commissioner will determine formulas to ensure estimated statewide amount is approximately \$250M more under the tiers and service groups than what would have been provided under (former) special education system as existed on 9/1/25 (2026-27 SY).
  - Commissioner must submit to LBB proposed weights for the tiers and amounts for the service groups (By Dec 1 of each even-numbered year).
- CCMR Outcomes bonus for students receiving SPED services increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 (2025-2026 SY).
- SPED transportation mileage reimbursement rate increased from \$1.08 to \$1.13 per mile (2025-2026 SY).
- SPED initial evaluation cost offset of \$1,000 for each evaluation completed (2025-2026 SY).
- Start-up and maintenance funding for day placement programs (2025-2026 SY but likely not funded until 2026-2027 school year in order to set up rules and program guidelines).
- Regional day school programs for the deaf funding will move to FSP rather than a separate budget rider in the GAA (2025-2026 SY).



## HB 2: School Finance

### Article 5 Supporting Early Childhood Education (1)

- Math:
  - Requires K-3 math educators to attend mathematics academies by 2030-31, and clarifies use of stipends
  - Increases Early Ed Allotment by .01 x the BA for each student K-3 to support math academies requirement
- K-3 Literacy & Numeracy Progress Monitoring:
  - Requires the commissioner to adopt list of reading and mathematics instruments for districts to use at BOY, MOY, and EOY in kindergarten-grade 3 to measure foundational literacy and numeracy skills
- Reading:
  - Clarifies use of stipends for teachers required to attend reading academies
  - Requires districts to provide reading intervention to students who fail two consecutive early literacy assessments from K-3
  - For students who failed two consecutive K-3 early literacy assessments, when districts offer reading intervention that meets a fidelity of implementation standard established by the commissioner, districts receive an intervention allotment amount of \$250 capped at 10% of eligible students not already generating a dyslexia allotment
  - Creates reading academies specific to reading interventionists
  - Requires commissioner to provide districts a reading intervention tool
  - Provides ¼ day funding for summer reading intervention
  - Provides students who fail consecutive early literacy assessments or the third grade STAAR with \$400 grants for direct tutoring services for reading
  - Requires TEA to develop and implement an adaptive vocabulary assessment pilot to assess vocabulary development of students in kindergarten-third grade



## HB 2: School Finance Article 5 Supporting Early Childhood Education (2)

- PreK:
  - Full day funding is provided for 4yo PreK, out of funds appropriated to the early education allotment.
  - Requires the commissioner to designate at least four appropriate entities to serve as prekindergarten partnership intermediaries to develop partnerships between school districts and private childcare providers
  - Increases requirements for districts to partner with private childcare providers; limits tuition preK in 2027
  - Expands eligibility for public prek to children of classroom teachers
- ADSY Expansion:
  - Lowers ADSY minimum number of days requirement from 180 to 175
  - Expands ADSY funding to grades 6-8
  - Provides  $\frac{3}{4}$  day funding for campuses offering over 200 total days
  - Funds an ADSY Startup Grant Program
- Resource Campus Clarification:
  - Certain campuses that have had performance struggles historically and that pursue a bold set of reforms in unison gain access to SB1882 funding (which varies, but averages \$1800 per student)
  - Expands eligible campuses to include campuses that have received a D or F or IR for at least three of the last 10 years (including Not Rated in 2022)
  - Reforms must include having experienced teachers, but now relaxes requirement that all foundation curriculum subject teachers have at least two years of experience
  - Reforms must include having TIA teachers, but relaxes TIA requirement by requiring at least 50% of teachers in the foundation curriculum to be TIA designated



## HB 2: School Finance

## Article 6 College, Career, and Military Readiness

### HB120: CTE Supports

- Expands NIFA funding by \$50M per year and allows NIFA to be used for a renovated portion of an instructional facility to be used for the first time to provide high cost and undersubscribed CTE programs
- JROTC now generates CTE funding
- Requires notice to students of JROTC scholarship options
- Increases the number of IBC assessment subsidies that students may receive from one to two
- Entitles an educator who gets certified in a CTE field to be reimbursed for certification fee costs
- Expands district funding for college application assessments to include TSIA plus an exam like SAT/ACT plus a career readiness exam
- Increases the per student entitlement for P-TECH students from \$50 to \$150 and removes this entitlement for students enrolled in a new tech network campus
- Prohibits students in PTECH from paying for dual credit
- Explicitly allows LEAs to spend funds providing collegiate advising for the two years after graduation
- Requires TEA to publish on its website postsecondary outcomes for 10 cohorts of students
- Expands district requirements related to adopting CCMR goals
- Rural Pathways in Excellence Partnerships (RPEP) Updates
  - Increases the RPEP funding cap to \$20M from \$5M
  - Grandfathers districts who have previously met the RPEP requirement of less than 1,600 students but no longer meet that requirement as eligible for funding; Caps growth for funding purposes at 110%
  - Allows TEA to stand up an RPEP grant program if funds are appropriated



## HB 20: Applied Sciences Pathway

- Creates new, Applied Science Pathways Program to allow school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to enter articulation agreements with institutions of higher education (IHEs) that enable students to earn a high school diploma and Level 1 or Level 2 certificates that lead to successful job placement in high-wage, high-growth jobs in the following targeted industries:
  - Plumbing and pipe fitting
  - Electrical
  - Welding
  - Sheet metal
  - Carpentry
  - Masonry
  - Diesel and heavy equipment
  - Aviation maintenance
  - HVAC
  - Construction management and inspection
  - Mechanical and aerospace engineering
  - Industrial maintenance and processes
  - Robotics and automation
  - Information technology and cybersecurity
  - Oil and gas exploration and production
  - Refining and chemical processes
  - Transportation distribution and logistics
  - Manufacturing and industrial technology
  - Electronics technology
  - Automotive technology
  
- Courses required to earn a Level I or Level II certificate may be substituted for certain TEKS-based courses required for high school graduation if the content is substantially similar.
  
- Of note: Under existing law, transporting students for the purposes of CTE was fully reimbursed; and obtaining a Level I or Level II certificate is recognized as a CCMR indicator in A-F.



## HB 2: School Finance

## Article 7 Public Education and School Finance

## SB 260: School Safety

- Establishes an Allotment for Basic Costs of \$106 per enrolled student
- Small/Mid Sized Allotment multipliers increased by roughly 10% (and adjusts the charter school offset)
- Increases the BA by \$55
- Moving forward, the BA will increase automatically based on the amount previously used to increase the golden penny yield, via the Guaranteed Yield Increment Adjustment (GYIA)
- School Safety Allotment: Increases the current annual school safety allotment from \$10 to \$20 for each student in average daily attendance and from \$15,000 to \$33,540 per campus.
- Charter School Facilities funding cap removed and funding set at a formula of  $0.06 \times$  the BA, but with restrictions on charters that are eligible
- Dual language immersion funding can now apply when educators lack a bilingual certification when approved
- Requires TEA to develop a list of high-impact tutoring providers
- Simplifies grant reporting requirements during grant close-out
- Establishes crisis prevention training requirements
- Requires commissioner to notify school districts where local property appraisals fall out of compliance with the comptroller's property value study
- Establishes Regional Insurance cost allotment for First Tier TWIA districts on the coast, equal to 80% of their incremental insurance cost per ADA.
- Changes FSP funding mechanism to allow for true-up from LPE to DPE after each six-week interval, rather than waiting for September settle-up
- Facility Usage Report: School districts must report information about facilities to TEA



## HB 121: School Safety

- Clarifies training requirements for school safety personnel who meet the alternative requirements under statute (i.e., are not otherwise sworn officers)
- Requires school boards to annually reevaluate and if appropriate renew a good cause exception when hiring a school safety officer who meets the alternative requirements under statute
- Requires school boards to once every five years to reevaluate and if appropriate renew a good cause exception when not meeting a required school safety facility standard
- Threat assessment teams must include individuals with expertise on special education and mental health
- TEA may employ sworn officers but only for the purpose of assisting school systems with safety requirements or supporting during any school system emergency response
- TEA must annually provide a status report on statewide school safety measures



## **SB 843: Bond Database**

- TEA must establish a database to track all bonds, taxes, and bond-related projects, and districts must report all of this information



## **SB 1453: I&S Rates**

- When setting I&S rates, districts cannot adopt a tax rate higher than what is required to pay their debt that year without explicit board vote authorizing that higher amount, and if the board authorizes a higher amount, districts must publish how much lower the I&S rate would have otherwise been.



## **SB 4 & SB 23: Property Tax and Homestead Exemption**

- Homestead exemptions are increasing from \$100k to \$140k, subject to voter approval
- Homestead exemptions for the elderly or disabled are increasing from \$10k to \$60k, subject to voter approval
- The bill provides for the requirement that all tax rate and school finance funding plans for the 2025-26 school year assume that these provisions pass
- Districts will receive I&S hold harmless funding from the state equal to the amount of reduced I&S collections from the homestead increase given outstanding I&S debt as of September 1



## HB 1522: Open Meetings Act

- School board meetings must be posted at least 3 business days in advance of the meeting date (vs 72 hours under prior law)
- School board meetings where the budget will be discussed must ensure the budget is fully accessible to the public (electronic or physical copies) and that an estimate of property tax impact is provided



## SB 401: UIL Participation for Non-Enrolled Students

- School districts are required to allow homeschool students residing in their district boundaries to participate in school-sponsored UIL activities in the same manner as any enrolled public school student
- School boards may adopt a policy opting out of this requirement (on a timeline set by UIL rule)
- Homeschool students have a right to participate in UIL activities from the closest school district that has not opted out
- Of note: under prior law, districts may admit homeschool students for the purposes of offering them participation in any UIL activity, and the district will receive \$1500 per student per activity per year



## **SB 2: Education Savings Accounts**

- The bill establishes an Education Savings Account (ESA) program to be administered by the Comptroller. The program fund would be an account in the General Revenue Fund.
- The bill requires the Comptroller to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill by May 15, 2026, and the program would begin with the 2026-2027 school year.
- For parents of students with disabilities who apply for an ESA, school districts must perform a special education evaluation and develop an IEP. (Funding is provided via eval formula funding under HB2)



## SB 569: Virtual/Hybrid Learning

- The bill repeals existing Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 30A, State Virtual School Network, and establish TEC, Chapter 30B: Virtual and Hybrid Campuses, Programs and Courses.
- LEAs may offer virtual/hybrid courses and programs by certifying that they cover the TEKS and meet either Commissioner-adopted or nationally-recognized standards (two-year transition period for existing providers)
- LEAs may offer full-time virtual/hybrid campuses after receiving authorization from the Commissioner (expedited authorization process for existing campuses). Campuses approved to be full-time virtual/hybrid will be funded based on enrollment rather than ADA.
- Before a student is being considered for discretionary expulsion, school districts must consider whether a virtual program is appropriate.



## SB 571: Misconduct Reporting

- This bill updates reporting requirements to SBEC and TEA (including required use of the Misconduct Reporting Portal) to ensure investigation of misconduct allegations.
- Superintendents are required to report to SBEC/TEA within 48 hours of the superintendent's awareness of evidence of misconduct towards students/minors by an individual employed by (or seeking employment of) an LEA, charter entity, ESC, shared services arrangement, or service provider regarding:
  - Abuse/Physical Mistreatment of Students (including threats of violence)
  - Involvement in and/or Solicitation of a Romantic Relationship
  - Engagement in sexual contact
  - Engagement in inappropriate communications
  - Failure to maintain appropriate boundaries
- This bill also updates the child abuse reporting deadline by professionals to DFPS or law enforcement to 24 hours (instead of the 48-hour deadline under current law.) For reports to a law enforcement agency, this bill requires reporting to law enforcement of a municipality, county, or state (and not ISD law enforcement.)



## HB 4623: Liability of Public Schools and Professional Employees

- Applies to a superintendent or administrator serving as educational leader and chief executive officer of the school, principal or equivalent chief operating officer, teacher, including a substitute teacher, supervisor, social worker, school counselor, nurse, and teacher's aide employed by a public school, bus driver, student in an education preparation program, school board member, and a teacher.
- A public school that is grossly negligent or reckless, or engages in intentional misconduct, in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee is liable for an act or omission that is committed by the employee against a student enrolled in the school and that is: (1) sexual misconduct; or (2) failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect under Section 261.101, Family Code. (b) In an action against a public school under this chapter, the professional school employee who committed the act or omission on which the claim is based must be named as a defendant.
- Up to \$500,000 for each claimant plus court costs and attorney's fees.
- A public school's governmental immunity to suit and from liability is waived to the extent of liability created by this bill.
- A public school employee's official immunity is also waived to the extent of liability created by this bill.



## HB 1481: Cell Phones

- School districts & charters must adopt a policy prohibiting use of cell phones while on school property during the school day.
- In adopting a policy, district or school must authorize use necessary to implement IEP, 504 plan, or other similar program/plan; by a student with a documented need based on doctor directive; or as necessary to comply with health or safety requirement.
- School systems have flexibility on the specific mechanism used to prohibit.
- School boards have until 90 days after effective date (effective June 20) to adopt cell phone policy.
- TEA must provide a model policy.



## HB 33: Uvalde Strong

- Any school construction or renovation projects require a formal security review.
- Emergency operations plans must incorporate standardized protocols for crisis communication.
- Each campus must maintain at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield.
- ALERRT is tasked with developing an active shooter response training template by December 1, 2025.
- Local law enforcement agencies responding to an active shooter event must submit an initial report within 45 days and a finalized version within 90 days. These reports go to TDEM, DPS, and ALERRT.
- By September 1, 2026, all public information officers employed before the bill's effective date must obtain TDEM-certified emergency communications credentials.
- DPS and local agencies are required to engage in biennial drills and enter mutual aid agreements by January 1, 2026.



## SB 12: Grievances & Parental Rights

- Clarifies the requirements of local school district grievance processes, including filing and appeal timelines
- Requires ISDs to post information about their grievance policies online (and provide TEA with webpage), allow grievances to be submitted online, and provide info on how to appeal grievances at each level.
- If more than five parent grievances are ruled in favor of parents after appeal to the commissioner in a given year, the superintendent must appear at a hearing of the SBOE.
- Districts are required to develop parent engagement policy, that must:
  - Include having an online portal for collecting parent comments
  - Including having parent comments at the beginning of each board meeting
  - Include having board meetings outside of working hours
- Districts must have parent participation plans and communicate them annually to parents
- Districts are required to adopt and implement a policy related to posting of the instructional plan or syllabus for each course taught in the district prior to each semester.
- Districts are required to notify parents within one business day when they suspect that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child.
- Districts are required to notify parents regarding any change in services or monitoring of a student's mental, emotional, or physical health.
- Districts must offer at least two parent-teacher conferences annually, up from one.
- Human sexuality instruction now requires an opt-in.
- DEI is prohibited in school districts
- Boards must annually certify compliance with DEI and CRT prohibitions
- Gender Transitioning support from school districts is prohibited
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity instruction and student clubs are prohibited
- Districts must report trustee names, e-mail addresses, and terms of office to TEA
- Facility Usage Report: School districts must report information about facilities to TEA (also found in HB2)



## **SB 204: Parental Rights**

- School board members must complete a training on parental rights in education (once developed by SBOE)
- TEA must create a parental rights in education handbook, and school systems must provide that handbook to parents each year



## SB 13: Library Books

- Entitles parents to access information related to library books accessed by their children
- Clarifies library material prohibitions related to harmful material, profane content, and indecent content
- Permits school districts to establish local library councils to help with review of new materials, material reviews, or collection guidelines
- Library materials challenges must be accepted from any resident, parent, or staff member, and local library councils must offer a recommendation related to the challenge within 90 days of receipt



## **HB 100: Instructional Materials Rejected by SBOE**

- Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, school systems may not purchase or use materials that have been formally rejected by the SBOE under its IMRA process.



## SB 10: Ten Commandments

- A public elementary or secondary school shall display in a conspicuous place in each classroom of the school a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments.
- School districts must accept donations of this poster that meet specifications in order to display them. School districts may choose to purchase them.
- This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.



## **SB 11: School Prayer**

- School districts may adopt a policy requiring a period of prayer or reading the Bible or other religious text in their schools, subject to permissions being received from parents.
- Not later than six months after the effective date of the Act, each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take a record vote on whether to adopt the policy.



## SB 1191: GPA Calculations

- Requires the commissioner of education to develop a standard method of computing a student’s high school grade point average (GPA) that:
  - Grants equal additional weight for non-CTE advanced placement (AP), international baccalaureate (IB), OnRamps dual enrollment, and dual credit courses
  - Grants a different amount of additional weight to dual credit CTE courses
- Requires school districts to use this standard method to compute students’ high school GPAs
- The commissioner must develop the standard method as soon as practicable after the bill’s effective date.



## HB 27: Personal Financial Literacy

- The high school graduation requirements in social studies have changes from economics & personal financial literacy to personal financial literacy, with the additional requirement to take a full credit of economics, world history, or world geography.
- The change takes effect for students starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2026-27 school year.



## **SB 2314: College Applications**

- Before graduation, students must decide whether to establish an account on the My Texas Future website managed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to assist students with college applications and financial aid.
- These requirements begin with the 2026-27 school year.



## **SB 991: Chronic Absenteeism**

- Adds chronically absent student and truant (10 or more unexcused days or parts of days within 6-month period) student to the list of a “student at risk of dropping out of school.”
- "Chronically absent student" is absent from school for more than 10 percent of the school's required operation and instructional time within a school year or an enrollment period that exceeds 30 instructional days.
- Whether or not a student is considered chronically absent will be collected through a PEIMS submission. District and campus reporting will be required on truant and chronically absent students.
- TEA must annually aggregate at campus and district levels and make publicly available the data on truancy and chronic absenteeism.



## **HB 3372: Personal Services by Administrators**

- Administrators are prohibited, with certain exceptions, from receiving a financial benefit when performing personal services to businesses that do business with their own districts, from curriculum businesses, or from other LEAs or ESCs.
- Violations can result in fines of up to \$10,000.



## HB 4687: Charter School

- Charter school legal entities are now subject to the same liabilities and immunities as independent school districts.



## **SB 1173: Increase in purchasing threshold**

- School districts and charters (who opted in) have additional flexibility in purchasing and contracting under TEC 44.031 because the cost threshold increased to \$100,000.



## HB 8 (2nd called) - Accountability Implications

- A-F rules must be adopted by July 15 before the start of each school year, otherwise prior year rules apply
- The five-year A-F refresh cycle is codified, with the next refresh effective 2027-2028
  - The commissioner cannot raise cut scores outside of the refresh cycle
  - Refresh rules must be communicated two years before the refresh; what-if ratings must be provided for those two years
  - The commissioner must use a specific approach to raise cut scores during each refresh, using a 15-year goal of having Texas reach the top 5 states in postsecondary readiness and NAEP
- Legislative oversight of A-F rulemaking is increased:
  - Accountability advisory committee must include legislative staff
  - Refresh rules must be communicated to the legislature before adoption
  - TEA must notify the legislature of any known statutory non-compliance issues (e.g., if A-F ratings aren't issued by Aug 15)
- Industry-based certification (IBC) updates will align with the five-year A-F refresh cycle
  - The commissioner must consider IBC lists developed by Tri-Agency and TWC Advisory Board
  - IBC requirements, including high-wage and high-skill standards, are codified
  - IBCs removed from the list must have a phase-out period, so that students who begin an IBC path can complete it
- When assessments change, TEA must conduct analyses to establish comparable performance standards to ensure consistency in the accountability system.
- Starting with future refresh:
  - Students can demonstrate military readiness by completing a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (JROTC) and achieving a passing score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB)
  - CCMR indicators must be weighted based on their correlation with postsecondary success
  - In Domain 3, TEA must use alternative data to evaluate the performance of a new campus that doesn't have prior-year data
  - TEA must allow for additional data submission for CCMR indicators that use prior-year data
- TEA must develop a through-year growth measure for grade levels with required BOY and MOY assessments and present the measure to accountability advisory committees and the legislature to consider future incorporation into A-F
- TEA must collect and report on optional local indicators: extracurricular engagement, pre-K participation, math/reading academy completion rates, middle school CTE participation, and advanced course completion rates
- TEA must establish a grant program to support LEAs in adopting a local A-F campus rating system that is different than the state system



## HB 8 (2nd called) - Assessment Implications

- The last year STAAR will be administered is the 2026-2027 school year
- STAAR is replaced with a new instructionally supportive statewide assessment program, called by statute the **Student Success Tool**, starting in 2027-2028:
  - Beginning-of-year (BOY), middle-of-year (MOY), and end-of-year (EOY) assessments are required to monitor progress and report growth throughout the year; teachers can use results to improve instruction
    - BOY and MOY are optional for end-of-course (Algebra I, Biology, English I, U.S. History);
    - Students with significant cognitive disabilities are exempt from BOY or MOY assessments
  - TEA must approve a list of alternative norm-referenced BOY and MOY assessments that LEAs can use
  - Assessments must be shorter than the current STAAR, and EOY must happen later in the school year (May)
  - The writing portion of Reading Language Arts (RLA) tests must be shorter and administered earlier (early April) to ensure results can be available as soon as students take the rest of the RLA test
    - TEA must automatically rescore the writing portion if the student is one point away from attaining the next highest performance level on the test
  - Results must be returned almost immediately, within 2 business days of the end of testing (unless standard-setting is required), and must be easily accessible to parents via an online portal.
  - Criterion-based performance levels must remain the same each year, and performance level tables and cut scores must be published before tests are administered.
  - All items must be reviewed and approved by committees of current Texas teachers
  - All items must be evaluated to be written at a grade-level appropriate reading level
  - Practice tests and non-curricular benchmarks tests are prohibited to cut down on missed instructional time
- English II EOC eliminated effective 2027-28; IGCs eligible for students who pass at least two remaining EOCs



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**Thank You**

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