LEVELLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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INFORMATION

Legislative Update

1. The 90th Texas Legislative Session: What's coming?

The 90th Texas Legislative Session begins January 12, 2027. Bill prefiling began November 9, and more than 1,200 bills and resolutions had already been filed by November 10. Legislators are already putting forward proposals, but a filed bill is not a law or necessarily an indication that it will pass.

Some early proposals worth watching include:

- Funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance.
- Tying the Basic Allotment to inflation. (early numbers are between $7,000-$7,500)
- Creating a Fine Arts Allotment.
- Expanding full-day prekindergarten funding.
- Changing school start-date requirements.
- Expanding flexibility in the School Safety Allotment.
- Changing accountability and assessment requirements.
- Changing education savings account (ESA) eligibility or repealing the program.
- Establishing voter-approval thresholds for bond elections.

2. School finance: The biggest issue for Levelland ISD

Legislative issue	Why it matters to LISD
Basic Allotment	Inflation has increased the cost of operating schools.
Enrollment vs. attendance funding	Could significantly change funding for districts with attendance challenges.
Teacher compensation	Rural districts need to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining teachers.
Special education funding	Increasing student needs require adequate state funding.
Property tax relief	Changes to state funding and local tax policy affect district revenue.
Recapture and school finance formulas	Could change how local property tax revenue is distributed.

3. Things on the new commissioners to do list:

- 1. Testing—reduced to federal minimums (legislative action)
- 2. HS EOC replaced with state-paid SAT/ACT to reduce redundant testing (fed law allows; many states do this; would require legislative vote)
- 3. T-TESS replaced by a system similar to supervision of nurses, based on trust in training, good faith and professionalism (would require legislation)
- 4. TIA adjusted and coupled with blanket higher pay in general or redesigned with to put less weight on bubble tests and more on supervisor, peer, and/or parent feedback (Legislation required)
- 5. Federal law prohibits use of a national test for fed accountability, so accountability systems must use a test tied to state standards, but TX could adjust the way those tests are written (to embed NAEP related questions, for example), could add other factors to the system besides just a test (which currently accounts for 100% of elementary A-F ratings), and—my favorite—could ONLY compare schools to socioeconomically similar schools across every domain, so we compare apples to apples
- 6. A-F system could go away or be replaced by a pass-fail system, or be completely reimagined in other ways (legislative action)
- 7. Voucher-receiving schools could be required to demonstrate curricular quality, HQIM, student safety, and fiscal responsibility through state reporting mechanisms, and their voucher kids could be required to demonstrate learning on state assessments (legislative action)
- 8. Voucher program could be killed outright (more likely than people realize as surviving Republicans do some pretty simple math) (Option for Line Item Veto)
- 9. Charter schools investigated when sped kids turned away and funding returned to traditional schools when charter kids leave
- 10. Really anything can happen, but the new commissioner is promised to be a current for former superintendent.