

# **Board Report Agenda Item**

## **Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **September 14, 2021**

## **Legislative Updates from the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Special Sessions**

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### **BOARD GOALS**

#### **TEACHING & LEARNING:**

- develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority
- advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates
- cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments supporting all students
- establishing high expectations with a curriculum fostering inquiry, critical thinking, civic responsibility and exemplary citizenship
- cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district
- incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership
- foster and support an advanced digital learning environment
- establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors

#### **CULTURE & CLIMATE:**

- honor the dedication and professionalism of all staff
- celebrate, respect, and promote the value of diversity in our Denton ISD Community
- support a working environment ensuring open and transparent communication
- establish high expectations for success
- instill in students a love of lifelong learning
- foster a positive, welcoming environment encouraging parent and community partnerships
- promote health, wellness and emotional well-being
- effectively communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community

#### **GROWTH & MANAGEMENT:**

- recruit, employ and retain high quality teachers
  - remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
  - work with the community in planning and facility development
  - utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks
  - adjust policies and procedures to address rapid growth and changing demographics, nurturing our strong sense of community
  - demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources
  - provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal and regulatory requirements.
  - encourage teachers and staff to pursue advanced degrees
  - develop a budget focused on student and professional learning
  - maintain a diverse workforce
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### OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- support college, career, military and life readiness
- engage students in extracurricular clubs and organizations
- Advocate for public education across the state and nation
- develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life

### Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide updates and resources to the Board of Trustees regarding the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Special Sessions.

### Objectives:

This report includes the following updates and resources:

### Education Bills Passed by the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Special Sessions:

- **SB 15** by Sen. Larry Taylor, will allow districts and charter schools to receive state funding for limited virtual instruction
- **SB 2081** – Prekindergarten classes are now capped at 22 students — the same maximum class size of other elementary school grades.
- **SB 7** – Authorizes a 13th check for TRS retirees
- **SB 9** – Involves the local school health advisory councils in determining appropriate grade levels, curriculum, and instructional materials regarding child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. District must provide written notice to parents and allow the option to opt their child out or provide consent to receive the instruction

### More Education Bills Passed by the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Special Sessions

Several education-related bills have already been signed by Gov. Greg Abbott, while a variety of others have been sent to him for signature. [See the updated list.](#)

### Additional Resources:

- [Texas Tribune](#)
- [Texas Legislature Online](#)
- Texas PTA: <https://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities>
- Texas Association of School Administrators: <https://tasanet.org/advocacy/tasa-legislative-priorities/>
- Texas Association of School Boards: [TASB 2020-2022 Advocacy Agenda Priorities](#)

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- Texas Association of Secondary School Principals: <https://www.tassp.org/legislative-updates>
- Raise Your Hand Texas: <https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy/2021-legislative-priorities/>
- Texas School Coalition: <https://www.txsc.org/about/priorities/>
- North Texas Commission: <https://www.ntc-dfw.org/advocate>

#### **Operational Impact:**

None noted

#### **Results:**

Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our elected officials may have significant impact to policies directly related to public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares citizens as they consider policies impacting public education.

#### **Other Options:**

None noted.