

# Overview of Updates from the 89th Legislative Session

## EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

### SB2: ESA/Voucher Bill ([Info Link](#))

Effective 2026-2027 SY

- 20% of the bill prioritizes students transitioning from public to private school
- Exempts private school students below 3rd grade from testing requirements
- Excludes a student returning mid-year to public school from accountability requirements
- \$10,000/Student for Private School ESA
- \$2,000/Student for Homeschool ESA

### HB2: Public School Funding ([Info Link](#))

Effective 2025-2026 SY

- \$4,000 raise for teachers with 3-4 years of experience
- \$8,000 raise for teachers with 5+ years of experience
- Increase of \$45/Student-ADA for “non-administrative” staff pay raises
- \$106/Student-enrollment based for fixed costs: utilities, insurance, transportation, etc.
- Allotment for “early learning programs”
- Increase of \$20/student for safety
- Transitioning Special Education funding to “intensity-based” model in 2026-2027 SY
- Increase to Small/Mid-sized school allotment
- Increase of \$55/Student-ADA for basic allotment (Total \$6,215/Student-ADA)
- Allotment for Teacher Prep Programs
- Increases Allotment for TIA

### Teacher Certification Requirements in HB2

- Schools no longer allowed to employ non-certified teachers under District of Innovation
- Requires Parent Notification for all non-certified teachers
- Requires all teachers in “foundation courses” to be certified by 2029-2030
- Requires the district to pay certified teachers more than non-certified teachers.

### Prekindergarten Guidelines in HB2

- Children of educators are now eligible to qualify for public school prekindergarten programs. The bill also creates barriers for PreK tuition and establishes PreK partnerships with TEA approved organizations.

### SB 569: Virtual School

- Relates to the provision of virtual education in school districts and certain waivers and modifications for the purpose of preserving school distinct funding entitlements during an emergency crisis.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

### HB 6: Student Discipline

Effective 2025-2026 SY

- Increases # of days allowable for ISS to 10
- DAEP placement for vape possession is listed as discretionary for the first offense, not mandatory anymore
- Provides funding for virtual DAEP
- Allows a teacher to request removal of a student who repeatedly interferes with the learning environment and requires a conference involving the teacher within 3 days of the date of removal.

### HB 1481: Student Cell Phones

Effective 2025-2026 SY

- Requires districts to comply with policy prohibiting students from using personal communication devices while on school property.

### SB 326: Required Disciplinary Action

- Requires districts to take disciplinary action against a student that violates the student code of conduct when determined to be motivated by antisemitism.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

### HB 33: Uvalde Strong Act

- Establishes provisions regarding school security, law enforcement training, and mental health resources for first responders

### SB 127: Students with Disabilities

- Requires an ARD/504 committee to consider if a student with disabilities needs specific accommodations during mandatory safety drills.

### SB 546: Seat Belts

- Revises the exceptions allowable for school/activity bus requirements to have three-point seat belts for each passenger

## OTHER FUNDING

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **SB 4: Property Tax Exemption**

- Increases school district residence homestead tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000.

#### **SB 2520: Elderly Homestead Exemptions**

- Revises the provisions related to the total amount of property taxes imposed by a school district on the residence homestead of an individual who is disabled and/or 65 or older.

#### **HB 9: Property Tax Exemption**

- Increases exemption for personal property owned and used for production of income to \$250,000

#### **HB 120: CTE & FAST Funding**

- Establishes provisions on CTE funding and financial aid for FAST program eligibility

#### **HB 34236: Property Value Study**

- Establishes a task force to examine the use and effect of the school district property value study and develop recommendations on the elimination or replacement of the study and alternative methods by which the purpose of the study could be accomplished.

#### **SB 765: Database for Bond Information**

- Requires TEA to develop a database including information regarding district bonds, taxes, and bond-related projects

#### **SB 1453: Tax Rate for Bond Debt**

- Authorizes the governing body of a taxing unit as determined by a 60% approval of the motion that states the proposed rates and the difference between the two rates and purpose for which the excess revenue collected by the proposed rate will be used.

#### **SB 1502: Prohibiting Disaster Pennies**

Effective 1/1/26

- Prohibits districts from adopting a tax rate without an election in response to a disaster including a tornado, hurricane, flood, wildfire, or other calamity but not including a drought, epidemic, or pandemic that has impacted the district.

#### **SJR 2: Exemptions from Ad Valorem Taxes**

- Proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the amount of exemption of residence homestead from ad valorem taxation by a school district. (November 4, 2025 Election)

## ACADEMICS

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **SB 10: Display of the Ten Commandments**

- Requires public elementary and secondary schools to display a 16 x 20 poster for framed copy of the Ten Commandments in a "conspicuous place" in each classroom.

#### **HB 20: Applied Sciences**

- Requires the commissioner to develop an Applied Sciences pathway program for dual credit

#### **HB 27: Foundation School Program**

- Requires students to complete .5 credit in personal financial literacy and 1.0 credit in economics, world geography, or world history for graduation;

#### **HB 100: Curriculum Materials**

- Prohibits districts from purchasing curriculum material on the "rejected instructional materials" list.

#### **HB 824: Social Studies Curriculum**

- Requires the SBEO to adopt high school social studies TEKS that develop students' civic knowledge including the role of government officials and Robert's Rules of Order

#### **SB 24: Social Studies Curriculum**

- Requires the SBEO to adopt TEKS for 4-12 social studies that develops students understanding of communist regimes and ideologies.

#### **SB 13: Library Materials**

- Amends the Education Code related to acquisition of school library materials, processes for challenging materials, school library standards, and parent access to information related to school libraries.

#### **SB 1191: Standardized GPA**

- Requires the commissioner to develop a standard method for computing a student's high school GPA.

#### **SB 1418: PreACT**

- Related to performance standards for PreACT related to academic distinction designations concerning postsecondary readiness.

#### **SB 2786: Exemptions from TSI**

- Exempts certain students from assessment requirements under the Texas Success Initiative.

## EMPLOYMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **HB 1178: Temporary Teaching Certification**

- Requires SBEC to create a temporary certificate for educators certified by other states

#### **HB 2243: Teacher Job Satisfaction**

- Requires the Commissioner to establish a Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention task force to make recommendations for improving teacher job satisfaction and retention.

#### **HB 3372: Restriction on Other Employment**

- Prohibits a school administrator from receiving any financial benefit for the performance of personal services for any business that conducted or solicited business with the school district that employed the administrator.

#### **HB 4623: Acts Committed Against a Student**

- Makes a district liable for omitting an act committed by an employee toward a student that was sexual misconduct, abuse, or neglect.

#### **SB 2237: Restrictions on Severance Pay**

- Establishes limits to the amount of severance pay an executive employee is eligible to receive.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **HB 1188: IEP Meetings**

- Requires the district to provide parents with information regarding benefits available through LIDDA at a students' first ARD meeting

#### **HB 2310: Early Learning**

- Requires TEA, HHSC, & TWC to develop a strategic plan to improve early learning opportunities for young children with disabilities.

#### **SB 1952: SHARS**

- Requires HHSC to oversee the participation of local education agencies as SHARS program providers, including administering provider training and providing information and guidance regarding the program.

## MEDICAL

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **SB 865: AED Certification**

- Requires CPR and AED training and certification for all nurses, coaches, PE teachers, marching band directors, cheer coaches and others listed by the commissioner.

#### **HB 163: Admin/Disposal of Epinephrine**

- Authorizes schools to adopt a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors

#### **HB 549: Airway Clearance Devices**

- Requires each campus to have at least one airway clearance device appropriate for use on the majority of students enrolled at the campus.

#### **SB 920: Admin of Non-Prescription Meds**

- Establishes the right of employees to administer non-prescription medications without written protocol from a physician.

#### **HB 367: Medically Excused Absences**

- Requires a students' parent/guardian to provide on a required form a certification from a Texas-licensed physician specifying certain information in order for a school district to excuse a student from attending school for a life-threatening illness or related treatment

#### **HB 1586: Immunization Exemptions**

- Requires DSHS to create a blank affidavit for a person to use in claiming an exemption from a required immunization.

#### **SB 2398: Concussion Accommodations**

- Requires TEA to develop a list of nonmedical academic accommodations a district may offer to a student diagnosed with a concussion

## OTHER

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **SB 11: Prayer**

- Requires schools that are not operated by or affiliated with a religious organization, by record vote of the Board, to adopt a policy requiring every campus to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading the Bible or other religious text each school day.

#### **SB 12: Parent Rights**

- Prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion duties; restricts districts from infringing upon the rights granted to parents by the “creator” unless there is a compelling state-interest such as “life-saving” care for the child; Requires districts to develop a plan for parental participation in the district to improve parent and teacher cooperation, including the areas of homework, school attendance, and discipline; Requires the district to provide parents with a copy of their parents rights and options at the beginning of each school year including the right of the parent to choose public school, private school, or home school; Requires publication on the district’s website the instructional plan or course syllabus for each course taught; requires the district to report the square foot, acreage, and capacity of each school facility on the website; Prohibits districts from assistance with a person’s “social transitioning”; Revises district certain aspects of districts’ grievance policies.

#### **SB 204: Parent Rights**

- Requires TEA to create a handbook that explains all rights of parents regarding the education of their child.

#### **SJR 2: Parental Rights**

- Proposes a constitutional amendment protecting the right of parents to raise their children. (November 4, 2025 Election)

#### **SB 1049: Absence for Religious Instruction**

- Requires districts to adopt an attendance policy that excuses a student from attending school to attend a released time course, defined as a course in religious instruction offered by a private institute for at least one but not more than five hours a week.

### [INFO LINK FOR OVERVIEW OF ALL BILLS PASSED](#)

#### **SB 401: Private/Home School Participation**

- Requires, rather than allows, a public school to provide opportunities for homeschool/private school students to participate in UIL activities on behalf of the school unless the school board adopts a policy declining to grant the opportunity to participate.

#### **HB 1522: Posting Public Meetings**

- Requires meetings of a governmental body to be posted three business days in advance of the meeting. (Previously was 72 hours.)

#### **HB 3629: Restrictions for Sex Offenders**

- Prohibits a registered sex offender from being eligible to serve as a trustee on the Board.

#### **HB 4212: Public Information Requests**

- Requires districts to submit mailing and email address designated for receiving public information requests to the Attorney General

#### **SB 25: Warning Labels**

- Establishes a nutrition advisory committee to manufacture warning label requirements for foods with certain products

#### **SB 314: Food Additive Restrictions**

- Prohibits certain food additives from being included in free or reduced-price meals provided by school districts.

#### **SB 2929: Ejection from Activities**

- Allows referees, judges, and other officials at school extracurricular athletic activities to eject spectators without first issuing a verbal warning.

#### **SB 2986: Religious Use of School Facilities**

- Authorizes districts to allow a religious organization to use the district’s facilities to host a religious worship service under certain conditions.