



Legislative Update from the 89th Texas Legislative Session

The following presentation highlights issues impacting public education and slides were adapted from presentations provided by the Texas Association of School Administrators and MoakCasey.



Bill Statistics

House Public Education: Voted out 124/693 bills

Senate Education K-16: Voted out 177/488 bills

Bills were spread across **50 different committees.**



89th Legislative
Session



Education Took Center Stage

Legislation passed this session that impacts many areas of public education, including:

- School finance
- Property tax relief
- Teacher and parent “bill of rights”
- Student discipline
- The Ten Commandments and school prayer in classrooms
- Uniform GPA calculations determined by the commissioner
- Educator certification and preparation
- TRS-ActiveCare opt in
- Restrictions on purchase & use of instructional materials & library books
- Grievance process for parents
- Restrictions on student cell phone use and access in schools
- Pre-K programs
- Bond elections
- Instruction in civics, communist regimes, & personal financial literacy

HB 6: Student Discipline

- Provides more discretion to teachers regarding student discipline, grievances, paid leave, and contracts
- Allows for teacher removal of a student for a single incidence of serious misbehavior
- Removes any limit to an ISS assignment, but must be reviewed at least every 10 days with documentation of any extensions
- Clarifies OSS is subject to a three-day limit
- Allows OSS for under grade three in specific situations
- Removes mandatory DAEP placement for e-cigarettes

HB 1522: Notice of Open Meetings

- Changes posting notice for school board meetings from 72 hours before the meeting to three business days before the meeting
- If the board will discuss or adopt a budget, the notice must include a physical copy of the proposed budget unless the district has made the budget clearly accessible on the homepage of the district's website and must include a taxpayer impact statement
- Taxpayer impact statement: median-valued homestead property comparing tax bill in dollars for current fiscal year to an estimate of tax bill if proposed budget adopted
- Effective date: September 1, 2025

SB 1191: Uniform GPA Calculations

Requires the commissioner to develop a standard uniform method of computing a student's Grade Point Average (GPA) that:

- Gives equal weight for advanced non-CTE , AP, IB, OnRamps, dual enrollment and dual credit courses
- Provides a differentiated weight for workforce dual credit courses for a student's GPA
- Requires school districts across the state to adopt the new standard method to compute student GPAs

HB 1481: Student Cell Phone Restrictions

- Board must adopt and implement policy prohibiting student use of personal devices on school property during the school day, with few exceptions
- Board could prohibit devices being brought onto school property or designate storage place for device while student on property during the school day
- Personal communication device includes telephone, cell or flip phone, tablet, smart watch, radio or paging device, any other device capable of telecommunication or digital communication
- Requires TEA to develop model policy
- Implementation: within 90 days of effective date

Miscellaneous Bills

SB 10 – Must display in a conspicuous place in every classroom a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments *if donated

HB 100 – Prohibits use, or purchase with IMTA or local funds, of instructional materials on the SBOE's rejected list

HB 27 – Changes social studies graduation credits to require .5 credit in personal financial literacy and moves economics to be a 1 credit option with world geography and world history

HB 824 – Requires civics instruction TEKS for high school students

SB 24 – Adds understanding of communist regimes to social studies TEKS

SB 11 – Allows for prayer and reading of religious text in school

SB 13 – Relates to the creation of a local school library advisory council, and parental rights to access catalogs

Miscellaneous Bills

SB 25 – Updates requirements related to PE, Nutrition & Wellness in PreK-12 starting in 2027-28

HB 20– Creates a new program for high school students seeking a high school diploma and career-oriented certificates from Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in the applied sciences

SB 569 – Enhances the virtual education options available to students in Texas public schools and provides public schools greater flexibility to offer virtual education

HB 100 – Prohibits LEAs from using Instructional Materials and Technology Fund dollars for any material that were rejected by the SBOE. Establishes a 45-day notice period for proposed rejections

SB 12 - Enhances parental rights, including consent notices and an accelerated grievance response process, and requires board meetings to be held outside of normal work hours

HB 2: Educator Preparation and Certification

Uncertified Teachers

- Prohibits uncertified teachers in foundation courses (reading, math, science, social studies)
 - K-5 in reading and math in 2026-27
 - All other grade levels in 2027-28
- Requires parental notification when using uncertified teachers
- Allows the commissioner to grant extensions through the 2029-30 school year
- Prohibits use of DOI for uncertified teachers
- \$1k grant available if districts get certain teachers certified by 2026-27

HB 2: Early Childhood/Prekindergarten

A district that offers a pre-k program must provide free pre-k to the eligible children of classroom teachers employed in the district, beginning in the 2025-26 school year

A district can't charge tuition for pre-k unless it receives an official determination from a "pre-k partnership intermediary" that no eligible private provider is available to serve the students

HB 2: Early Childhood/Academies & Assessments

Districts must pay stipends to teachers who complete reading & math academies

- Stipend amount to be determined by the commissioner

Parents can apply for grant money for tutor outside the district

- District funding is reduced to pay for the outside tutors

Establishes new reading and math intervention academies

Establishes new early literacy and numeracy assessments

- Replace early reading instruments
- Requires prescriptive intervention for students who don't meet standard set by the commissioner

School Funding – from 30,000 Feet

- \$8.5 billion in additional funding for K-12
- \$1.3 billion for the “Allotment for Basic Costs” (ABC)
 - Uses: TRS costs for state pay increases, insurance increases, utilities, rehiring retirees, transportation
 - \$106 per student – enrollment-based
- \$430 million for school safety
 - Increased from \$10 to \$20 per ADA
 - Increased from \$15k per campus to \$33,540
- \$55 increase in the Basic Allotment
- \$300 million for the small and mid-size allotment

School Funding – from 30,000 Feet, cont.

- \$4.2 billion for teacher retention salary increases (2025-26 SY)

Enrollment less than 5k

- 3-4 years of experience = \$4k permanent
- 5+ years of experience = \$8k permanent

Enrollment more than 5k

- 3-4 years of experience = \$2.5k permanent
- 5+ years of experience = \$5k permanent

- \$500 million for non-administrative pay increases / support staff
 - **\$45 per adjusted ADA** to increase the salaries of school counselors, librarians, nurses, and other support staff
 - Funds can be used only for pay increases for support staff

HB 2: Educator Compensation & Retention

Correspondence from TEA on June 12 clarified that the Teacher Retention Allotment (TRA):

- Is based on PEIMS staff classification coding (087 like TIA)
- Provided to teachers that are at least 0.5 time employed
- Salary increases must be increases in the base pay
- Not limited to teachers of record or certified teachers only
- Has been added to the Permanent School Fund

School Funding – from 30,000 Feet, cont.

- \$850 million for sped intensity-based funding model (2026-27)
 - Includes \$1k for initial evaluations
- \$135 million for teacher prep and certification programs
 - Waives certification exam fees for bilingual and sped teachers
 - \$3k mentorship stipend for experienced to mentor new teachers
 - Funding for grow-your-own programs
- \$150 million for CTE
- \$200 million to expand charter school facility funding
- Slight increase in early education allotment (approx. \$60 per student)

SB 4 & 23 Tax Relief

Homeowner Property Tax Relief (2026)

- Increased the homestead exemption – \$100k to \$140k, pending voter approval in Nov

Increased senior and disabled homestead exemption (2026)

- Over 65 or disabled - \$10k to \$60k, pending voter approval in Nov

Business Tax Relief (2027)

- Increased business personal property tax exemption – \$2.5k to \$125k

All tax rate and school finance funding plans for 2025-26 SY assume these provisions pass.

Districts will receive I&S hold harmless funding from the state equal to the amount of I&S reduced collections from the homestead increase given outstanding I&S debt as of September 1.

SB 843: Bonds, Taxes, and Projects Database

TEA to create searchable database (disaggregated by geography)

- Bond ballot language
- Projected P&I associated with bond
- Election results
- List of projects
- Accounting of proceeds and project descriptions
- M&O tax information: levied or proposed
- Functions for updates or corrections to be made
- TEA rulemaking authority
- Can contract with a third-party vendor

SB 1453: I&S Tax Rates

Authorizes a taxing unit to adopt a higher tax rate than required to pay off debt if at least 60 percent of the governing body's members approve a motion that:

1. States the current calculated rate;
2. States the proposed higher rate;
3. Explains the difference between the two rates; and
4. Describes the purpose for which the excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used.

If approved, the proposed rate becomes the current debt rate for that tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate must be recalculated based on the new current debt rate.

The recalculated voter-approval tax rate becomes the new official voter-approval tax rate for that year.

Questions & Comments
