

# **Board Report Item**

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

### **April 25, 2017**

## **Legislative Update – 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session**

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### **Board Goals:**

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is references pending legislation as related to public education and is intended to generate discussion regarding relevant legislation.

### **Objectives:**

- Review Moak, Casey & Associates summary on the House Public Education Committee's meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 (see attached)
- Discussion: The Texas House gave final approval to House Bill 21 on Thursday, April 20, 2017
  - HB 21 *injects \$1.6 billion into public schools, simplifies the complex formulas for allocating the money, and targets certain disadvantaged student groups for more funding* (<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/04/19/texas-house-school-finance-bill/>)
  - CSHB 21 does the following
    - Commits \$1.8 billion above enrollment growth
    - Moves toward a more simplified system

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- Adds greater equity by increasing the basic allotment
- Reduces recapture
- Includes a new weight for students with dyslexia at 0.1
- Increases the bilingual weight from 0.1 to 0.11
- Provides transitional grant funding for those districts impacted by the expiration of ASATR
- Reference:  
<http://tx01923126.schoolwires.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=71&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=3311&PageID=1>
- Senate Bill 2145 would simplify the school finance formula
  - SB 2145 would:
    - “The proposed formula would provide the same base per-student funding to every district, with additional money for students in four specific groups: English language learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and students receiving training for technical jobs.”
      - Reference: <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/04/18/senate-panel-considers-bill-simplify-school-finance-formula/>
- Senate Bill 927 would create a “Special Education Recovery Program”
  - Reference: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Senate-okays-bill-to-ban-state-from-imposing-11085259.php>
- Review legislation moving through the House Public Education Committee and the Senate Education Committees
- Open discussion for relevant funding and budgeting legislation.

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the Senate Committee on Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C530>

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the House Committee on Public Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C410>

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

**Operational Impact:**

None noted

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**Results:**

**Advantages:**

Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature may have significant impact to policies directly impacting public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

**Disadvantages:**

None noted

**Other Options:**

None noted