



LEWISVILLE ISD

Legislative Update

April 7, 2025

Relating to public school accountability and actions and other proceedings challenging the operations of the public school system.

From the Bill Analysis posted on the Texas Legislature website:

- Provides that failure to provide the document described by Subsection (a) (relating to requiring the commissioner to provide each school district a document that explains the measures, methods, and procedures that will be applied in assigning a performance rating) does not prevent the assignment of performance ratings under Section 39.054 and is prohibited from being the basis of a challenge to a performance rating assigned under that section.
- Prohibits a school district or open-enrollment charter school from challenging on any basis, including a lack of commissioner or TEA authority, a TEA decision relating to an academic or financial accountability rating under Chapter 39 (Public School System Accountability), including a decision relating to a determination of consecutive school years of unacceptable performance ratings, in another proceeding unless the district or school has exhausted the district's or school's remedies, rather than had an opportunity to challenge the decision, under Section 39.151

Relating to public school accountability and actions and other proceedings challenging the operations of the public school system.

From the Fiscal Note:

- The bill would allow the commissioner to take authorized actions against a school district that initiates or maintains an action or proceeding against the state or an agency or officer of the state. The bill would also require certain sanctions and interventions for these school districts.
- The bill would clarify that certain appeals of TEA or commissioner actions could be made to a Travis County district court. The bill would also amend eligibility of certain proceedings eligible for a special three judge district court panel to include challenges to the implementation of a public school accountability system.
- The bill would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish a grant program with the capacity to assist at least one school district per education service center region in developing a local accountability system with certain requirements.
 - TEA assumes an annual cost of \$5.0 million in grants to schools for the local accountability grant program.
 - The analysis assumes that TEA would require an additional 6.0 FTEs to implement provisions of the bill at a cost of \$0.8 million in fiscal year 2026 and \$0.7 million in subsequent fiscal years.

Houston Chronicle article:

If a district sues the state anyways, the bill would allow the TEA commissioner to appoint a conservator over the district to order them to withdraw from the legal proceedings.

Districts that ignore the conservator's order and continue their lawsuit could then have their elected trustees replaced with a state-appointed Board of Managers.

Bettencourt also presented a updated version of the legislation, known as a committee substitute, that he said would replace the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness with a shorter test that is "better designed to support student learning" and would occur later in the academic year."

CSHB 2 - School Finance

We will cover content from this in our FY 26 Budget and Compensation Update later in agenda.