

# Legislative Update

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# 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:

## House (150)

- 88 Republicans
- 62 Democrats

## Senate (31)

- 20 Republicans
- 11 Democrats

## Freshman (43)

- 31 House
- 3 Senate

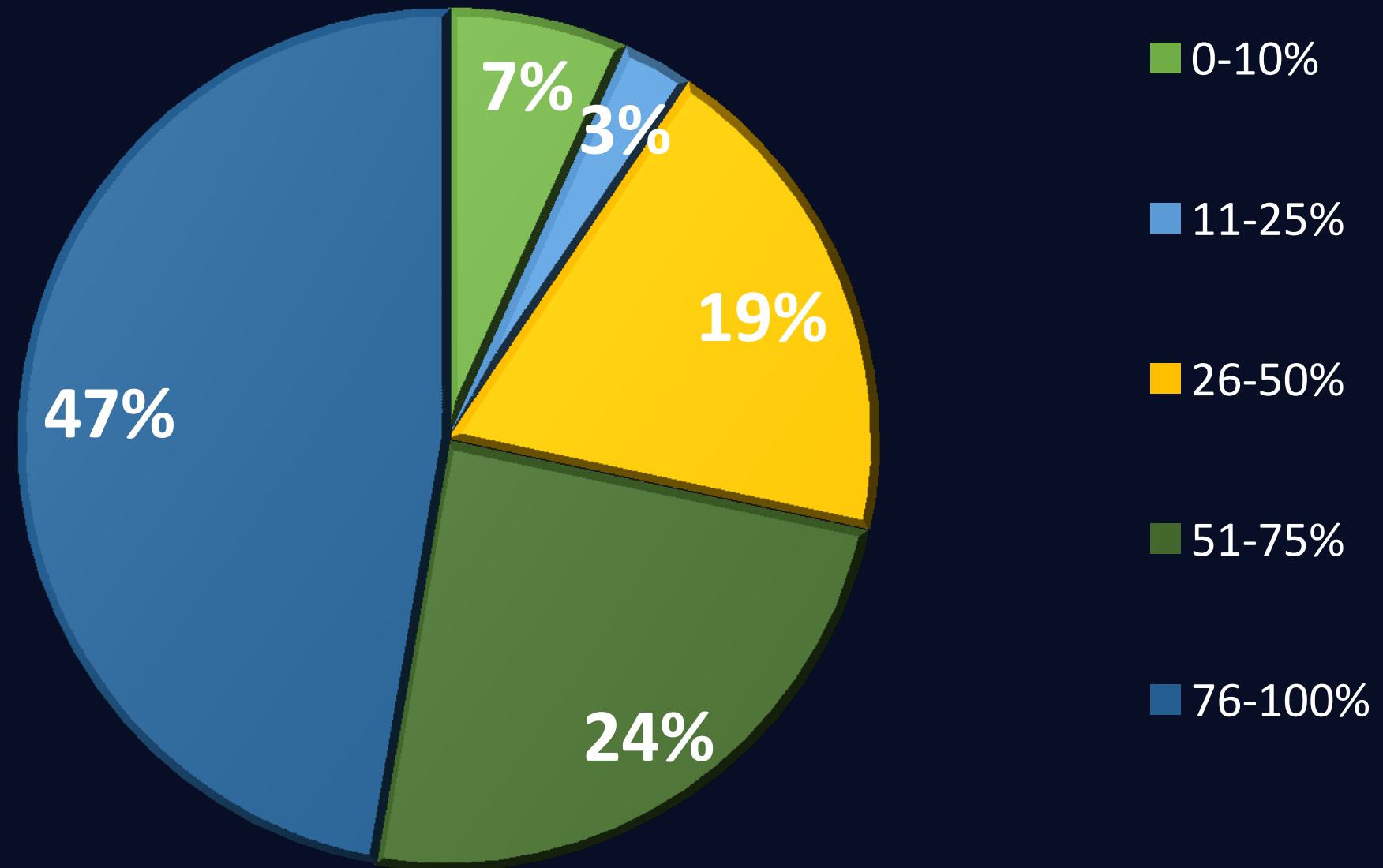
**Over 9,000 Bills Filed**

**Approximately 1,200 passed**

**107 Public Education Bills passed**

**26 Vetoes**

# PERCENTAGE OF WORK TIME SPENT ON TASKS DIRECTLY RELATED TO COMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS STATE LAWS OR TEA REQUIREMENTS



First called special session of the 89<sup>th</sup> legislature convened on July 21<sup>st</sup>

Of the 18 items the Senate and House have jointly identified four priority items:

- Flood Relief and Mitigation
- THC Regulation
- Congressional redistricting
- Ending and replacing STAAR

Other School Items:

- Cut property taxes and impose spending limits on entities authorized to impose property taxes
- Banning “tax-payer-funded lobbying”

# House Bill 1481

## **Prohibition of Student Cell Phone Use on Campus**

Prohibits student use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices or any other electronic device capable of communication) during the school day on school property.

The language currently under consideration for inclusion in the Student Code of Conduct is:

- “A student shall not use a personal communication device on school property during the school day. While on school property, the student shall store any personal communication device.”

See Board Policy FNCE update.



# Senate Bill 13

- Requires the board to approve all library materials donated or purchased by the district after the list has been accessible for review by the public for at least 30 days.
- Allows schools to establish a local school advisory council to make recommendations regarding policies and procedures for acquisition of library materials.
- Requires school boards to consider the recommendation of the local school library council before adding material to a library catalog, removing library materials, or changing policies or guidelines related to library catalogs

See Board Policy EFB update.

# Senate Bill 12

## **Prohibition on Social Transitioning**

SB 12 prohibits districts and school personnel from assisting a student with “social transitioning.” This includes recognizing or promoting a change in a student’s name, pronouns, or gender expression that differs from the student’s biological sex at birth.

## **Parental Consent for Student Club Participation**

This legislation now requires parental consent before a student may participate in any student club authorized or sponsored by the school.

## **Prohibition on Clubs and Instruction Related to Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity**

SB 12 also prohibits school districts from authorizing or sponsoring student clubs based on sexual orientation or gender identity (e.g., LGBTQ+ clubs).

# Senate Bill 571

## Reporting Requirements for Suspected Abuse

Reports of child abuse or neglect must now be made within **24 hours** of suspicion. In addition, if a principal becomes aware of evidence that an educator may have:

- Abused or committed an unlawful act with a student or minor,
- Been involved in or solicited a romantic or sexual relationship with a student or minor,
- Engaged in inappropriate communications (i.e., texting or communicating with students in violation of our policy), or
- Failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a student or minor (as defined by the Board).

Note the principal must report this to the superintendent within **48 hours**.



# House Bill 4623

## School District Liability for Sexual Misconduct

HB 4623 creates potential liability for public schools that are found to be grossly negligent, reckless, or engaged in intentional misconduct in the hiring, supervision, or employment of professional school employees who commit acts of sexual misconduct against students. Districts may also be held liable for failure to report suspected abuse or neglect involving students. This includes misconduct or communications that occur via non-district-monitored systems (e.g., personal cell phones, private messaging apps).

# Questions?

