

Legislative Updates

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May 12, 2015



TASA Capitol Watch Alert

Texas Association of School Administrators ■ Governmental Relations

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May 6, 2015

Senate Passes Bills to Deepen TEKS, Alters ADA for Students in Flexible School Day Program

The Senate passed two education-related bills on Tuesday, May 5:

- **SB 313** by Kel Seliger would establish procedures for the SBOE to review and modify the TEKS in the foundation subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) by narrowing the content and scope of the standards and skills for each subject and grade level. [TASA testified](#) in support of the bill in committee on April 21.
- **SB 496** by Kirk Watson would require the commissioner, in calculating ADA for students enrolled in a flexible school day program, to ensure that funding for attendance in a course in that program is based on the same instructional hour requirements of the regular program rather than a full-time equivalent student basis that requires six hours of student contact time to qualify for a full day of attendance. SB 496 is identical to HB 2660, passed by the House on May 5.

These bills now go to the House.

House Passes Bill That Removes Limit on Dual-Credit Courses, More

The House passed the following bills on Tuesday, May 5:

- **HB 1474** by Gary VanDeaver, as amended by committee substitute, would make the instructional materials allotment biennial rather than annual.
- **HB 2293** by Drew Darby, as amended by committee substitute, would require the comptroller to certify the final taxable value for each school district, appropriately adjusted to give effect to certain provisions of the Education Code related to school funding, to the commissioner as provided by the terms of a memorandum of understanding between the comptroller, the Legislative Budget Board, and the commissioner.
- **HB 2660** by Donna Howard, is identical to SB 496 (described above), passed by the Senate on May 5.

- **HB 2812** by Drew Springer would repeal the limit on the number of dual-credit courses in which students can enroll under certain circumstances.

These bill now go to the Senate.

Senate Ed Committee Passes Diploma, Dual-Credit Course Limit Bills

The Senate Education Committee met Tuesday, May 5. They voted out [three House bills and five pending Senate bills](#).

House Public Education Committee Passes Opportunity School District Bill, 22 Others on May 5

The House Public Education Committee passed the following bills on Tuesday, May 5, including CSHB 1536, which would create the Texas Opportunity School District, but also HB 1891, in support of community schools.

- **HB 233** by Jessica Farrar would authorize social work services in school districts to: assist students and families; alleviate barriers; link home, school, and community together; and promote advocacy.
- **HB 279** by Ron Simmons would expand the eligibility criteria for a public education grant to include a student who is in K-12, eligible to participate in a school district's special education program, and the subject of an IEP. The bill would add disability to the list of bases upon which a district could not discriminate in accepting or rejecting an application to attend school in the district.
- **HB 731** by Eddie Lucio, III, would allow a school district located in a county that borders Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to participate in the three-year high school diploma plan pilot program. HB 731 is identical to SB 421.
- **HB 1135** by Sergio Muñoz, Jr. would require the commissioner, in determining a district's regular transportation allotment, to include transportation provided by the district for a student attending a dual-credit course during the school day, including transportation from one campus to another inside the district and from the district to another public secondary school or public institution of higher education.
- **HB 1227** by Rodney Anderson, et al. would repeal law pertaining to physical fitness assessments of students. It would also eliminate the requirement of a notice statement in the student handbook that parents can request their child's physical fitness assessment results.
- **HB 1231** by Allen Fletcher, et al. would add chiropractors to the list of licensed health care professionals who can serve on a district's concussion oversight team.
- **HB 1373** by Helen Giddings would prohibit a school district with 5,000 or more students from assigning an elementary school student in grades 1-6 for two

consecutive years to an inappropriately certified teacher with less than one year of teaching experience.

- **CSHB 1536** by Harold Dutton would establish the Texas Opportunity School District and require the commissioner to determine, after a campus has been identified as unacceptable for two consecutive school years, whether the district has instituted meaningful change, including reconstituting the staff or leadership at the campus.
- **HB 1559** by Tan Parker would require each school that maintains a website to post information regarding local programs and services available to assist homeless students.
- **HB 1783** by Joe Moody would allow an employee of a school district or open-enrollment charter school to report a crime witnessed at the school to any peace officer with authority to investigate the crime. A district or charter school could not adopt a policy requiring an employee to refrain from reporting a crime witnessed at the school or to report a crime witnessed at the school only to certain persons or peace officers.
- **HB 1891** by Eddie Rodriguez, et al. would define a community school as a public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school that partners with one of more community-based organizations to coordinate academic, social, and health services to reduce barriers to learning and improve the quality of education for students in the community. A public school could transition to a community school if it takes five specific steps culminating in approval from at least 75 percent of campus faculty and staff, 75 percent of parents of students at the school, and the school board. HB 1981 is identical to SB 1483.
- **HB 1935** by Ken King, et al. relates to additional state aid for tax reduction provided to certain school districts.
- **HB 2151** by Tracy King would provide that a school board is not required to address a complaint it receives concerning a student's participation in an extracurricular activity that does not involve a violation of a right guaranteed by Education Code Chapter 26.
- **HB 2593** by Four Price relates to the method of determining the average daily attendance in certain school districts.
- **HB 2833** by Marsha Farney would increase the maximum time in which time warrants mature from 15 to 20 years from their date of issue and increase the maximum amount of time warrants a district could have outstanding at any one time from \$1 million to \$2 million. HB 2833 is identical to SB 1568.
- **HB 2928** by Ryan Guillen would repeal the current provision that a child must be enrolled in public school by a parent, guardian, or other person with legal control under a court order.

- **HB 3282** by Ron Simmons, et al. would require the commissioner to establish and administer an autism program to provide applied behavior analysis services to students with autism spectrum disorder through grant contracts between school districts and participating entities, to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose.
- **HB 3417** by Diego Bernal would allow a student enrolled in a special education program to earn an endorsement on the student's diploma or transcript by successfully completing, with or without modification, the curriculum requirements and the additional endorsement curriculum requirements, and successfully completing, with or without modification, all curriculum requirements for that endorsement if the courses are part of a coherent sequence of coursework that lead to a recognized business or industry certification or license.
- **HB 3546** by Morgan Meyer would allow a school board to establish a higher minimum passing standard that is greater than the 80th percentile and equal to or less than the 90th percentile on an examination for acceleration or credit under Education Code 28.023.
- **HB 3746** by Dwayne Bohac would create the Center for Performance Information for Public Education as an independent policy center to represent business, finance, public policy, education, and other interests considered appropriate by the center. The center's board would study the elements of an effective and efficient system of public free schools and make recommendations to certain agencies and officials at specified intervals. The center could be funded by donations, grants, and appropriations.
- **HB 4047** by Alma Allen would provide that an open-enrollment charter school is subject to a prohibition, restriction, or requirement relating to the right of a teacher to be free from coercion and the right of an educator to join or refuse to join any professional association or organization.
- **SB 925** by Lois Kolkhorst, as passed by the Senate, would require the commissioner to develop and make available literacy achievement academies for teachers who provide reading instruction to students at the kindergarten or first, second, or third grade level.
- **SB 955** by Charles Schwertner, as passed by the Senate, would allow the commissioner to grant a public senior college or university a charter for an open-enrollment charter school to operate in any Texas county rather than the same county in which the college or university campus is located.

These bills now go to the full House.

Senate Education Committee to Meet on Three House Bills Thursday, May 7

The Senate Education Committee will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, May 7, to consider the following bills:

- **HB 440** by Larry Gonzales, as passed by the House, would require the physical education curriculum to meet the needs of students who have a disability, including a student who is a person with a disability described under Education Code 29.003(b) or criteria developed by TEA in accordance with that section.
- **HB 1430** by Susan King, as passed by the House, would require TEA to ensure that information provided to students related to health science careers includes information regarding mental health professions.
- **HB 1993** by J.D. Sheffield, as passed by the House, would allow a school district that uses an electronic platform to communicate student grade and performance information to parents to permit parents to sign required notices of student performance electronically so long as the district retains a record verifying the parent's acknowledgment of the required notice.

Watch the [live broadcast](#).

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