



House & Senate Education Related Interim Charges

Interim Charges 2026

Senate Education Related Interim Charges

Senate Education

Improving School Transformation Talent: Evaluate the existing access to and efficacy of experts in improving school academic performance. Develop suggestions to strengthen and expand the current leadership pipeline, including public school training, policies, and practices that accelerate academic progress.

Shifting Enrollment, Right-Sizing: Despite the state’s rapid overall population growth, school age enrollment is declining from 5.54 million to 5.47 million students in the last two years. Examine the impact of student enrollment patterns in Texas public schools. Identify strategies to maximize the efficient use of tax dollars by school districts while maintaining access to high-quality learning programs and student outcomes.

Maximizing Instructional Time: Review the 200+ districts who utilize a 4-day school week or other hybrid models and the related learning loss in reading and math. Study the effect of academic schedules, in particular the decline of school days, and its impact on students and families. Create guidelines to support public schools and maximize student achievement.

Reviewing Historic Pay Increases for Teachers: Review teacher pay increases passed by the Legislature over the last decade, including the historic pay increase in House Bill 2, 89th Legislature. Monitor the implementation of pay increases for teachers and the impacts on teacher incomes, including closing the rural pay gap.

Celebrating the Successful Rollout of School Choice: Monitor the nation’s largest school choice launch in history and the ongoing implementation of Senate Bill 2, 89th Legislature, including: record-breaking demand with over 250,000 applications and enrollment by families giving greater flexibility to choose the best education for their child. Provide recommendations on how the Legislature can enhance and expand upon Texas’ historic and successful school choice program for families.



Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Education passed by the 89th Legislature

- [Senate Bill 12](#) (89th Legislature), relating to parental rights in public education, to certain public-school requirements and prohibitions regarding instruction, diversity, equity, and inclusion duties, and social transitioning, and to student clubs at public schools;
- [Senate Bill 13](#) (89th Legislature), relating to a school district's library materials and catalog, the establishment of local school library advisory councils, and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs and access by the parent's child to library materials;
- [Senate Bill 571](#) (89th Legislature), relating to the reporting and investigation of certain misconduct and child abuse and neglect; creating a criminal offense;
- [House Bill 2](#) (89th Legislature), relating to public education and public-school finance; and
- [House Bill 6](#) (89th Legislature), relating to discipline management and access to telehealth mental health services in public schools.

Senate Business and Commerce

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce passed by the 89th Legislature

- [Senate Bill 1964](#) (89th Legislature), relating to the regulation and use of artificial intelligence systems and the management of data by governmental entities

Senate Economic Development

Preparing the Texas Workforce for AI (Artificial Intelligence): Study the impact of AI on the Texas workforce and its implications for economic competitiveness. Evaluate strategies to enhance workforce resiliency, align educational pathways with evolving employer needs, and promote private-sector-led innovation. Identify opportunities for upskilling and the responsible adoption of emerging technologies to maximize employment opportunities. Make recommendations to ensure the Texas labor market remains a national leader in growth and opportunity.



Senate Health and Human Services

Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services passed by the 89th Legislature

- [Senate Bill 25](#) (89th Legislature), relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals; authorizing a civil penalty

Senate Local Government

Cutting Property Taxes: Examine Texas property taxes, focusing on homeowners' school property taxes. Make recommendations to cut Texans' property taxes by increasing the homestead exemption for all homesteads. Determine the savings for homestead owners is attributable to lowering the age of eligibility for the senior homestead exemption and senior tax ceiling from 65 to 55. Additionally, evaluate options to further reduce property taxes for new homeowners.

Examining the Effect of Increasing the Homestead Exemption: Review and report on the effects of Senate Bill 4 and Senate Bill 23, 89th Legislature, Senate Bill 2, 88th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, Senate Bill 2, 86th Legislature, and Senate Bill 1, 84th Legislature, which in combination have increased the homeowners' school tax exemption from \$15,000 to \$140,000 for those under the age of 65, and from \$25,000 to \$200,000 for those 65 and older. Identify the percentage of Texas homeowners that no longer pay school property taxes due to these efforts.

Select Committee on Religious Liberty

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of legislation passed by the 89th Legislature

- [Senate Bill 10](#) (89th Legislature), relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms; and
- [Senate Bill 11](#) (89th Legislature), relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text in public schools



Senate State Affairs

Maintaining Election Security: Study ways to enhance election security and guarantee poll watcher access. Further evaluate county election administration and local election officials and any recent attempts to circumvent state law. Make recommendations to ensure the security and integrity of Texas elections.

Ensuring Efficiency in Texas Elections: Study different methods counties employ regarding the marking and counting of ballots. Review the designation of polling locations for a specific political party during primary elections. Make recommendations to ensure elections are conducted efficiently and securely.

House Education Related Interim Charges

House Public Education

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- **HB 2**, relating to public education and public-school finance;
- **HB 6**, relating to discipline management and access to telehealth mental health services in public schools;
- **HB 8** (Second Called Session), relating to public school accountability and transparency, including the implementation of an instructionally supportive assessment program and the adoption and administration of assessment instruments in public schools, indicators of achievement, public school performance ratings, and interventions and sanctions under the public school accountability system, a grant program for school district local accountability plans, and actions challenging Texas Education Agency decisions related to public school accountability;
- **HB 1481**, relating to school district and open-enrollment charter school policies regarding student use of personal communication devices; and
- **SB 2**, relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.



State of Education: Study the current state of public education in Texas. Examine academic outcomes, enrollment trends pertaining to the stability of the school finance system, school safety, and the role of technology and artificial intelligence. Identify emerging challenges, opportunities, and best practices to sustain and expand high-performing schools across Texas. Explore ways to streamline statutory and regulatory provisions to improve efficiency in district operations.

Eliminate Educator Misconduct: Examine laws governing the prevention, reporting, and enforcement of educator misconduct to ensure the safety of Texas' children. Review recently passed legislation, as well as educator employment and contract termination statutes, to assess whether districts have sufficient authority to take timely and appropriate action. Identify gaps in oversight and make recommendations to strengthen safeguards and ensure schools have the tools available to prevent individuals who pose a risk to children from entering or remaining in Texas schools.

Improve Middle School Outcomes: Examine strategies to improve outcomes in middle schools. Focus on preparing students for high school success, increasing engagement, and expanding opportunities for career exploration. Review the implementation and effectiveness of advanced coursework, academic supports, interventions, and innovative models, particularly in core subjects. **Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Study the impact of recent legislation, including investment in educator preparation, increases in teacher compensation, additional classroom supports, and reformed student discipline policy. Review whether these significant changes are having an impact on school districts' ability to recruit and retain qualified educators in the classroom. Make recommendations to strengthen the teacher pipeline and ensure Texas is well positioned to sustain a thriving and stable educator workforce.

Investment in Special Education: Examine state policies impacting students with special needs and special populations, including the implementation of recent legislation and the impact of increases in state funding. Review trends in special education enrollment over the past several years and evaluate factors contributing to those increases. Identify opportunities and make recommendations regarding ways to improve efficiencies for special education teachers, increase access to pre-K, improve supports for students with low-incidence disabilities, and strengthen planning for the workforce and adulthood.



Agency Oversight: Pursuant to the broad oversight responsibilities granted to the Committee under Section 301.014, Government Code, and the House Rules of Procedure, monitor the agencies under the Committee’s jurisdiction, including for fraud, waste, and abuse, where applicable. The jurisdiction of the Public Education Committee includes the following agencies:

- The State Board of Education;
- The Texas Education Agency;
- The Texas representatives to the Education Commission of the States;
- The Southern Regional Education Board;
- The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired;
- The State Board for Educator Certification; and
- The Texas School for the Deaf.

House Higher Education

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- **SB 2314**, relating to the creation of an electronic platform and submission portal, known as My Texas Future, to facilitate public high school students’ awareness of and application to institutions of higher education using the electronic common admission application form.

Aligning Advising Initiatives: Examine investments by the state in advising systems and tools that support high school and college course planning, credential attainment, and successful transitions to post-secondary education and the workforce. Evaluate partnership- based models that leverage postsecondary and labor market research and available data aligned to high-wage and high-demand careers and expand advising capacity. Assess opportunities for the Tri-Agency to better align resources and services to strengthen advising systems and improve student outcomes.



House Appropriations

Monitoring: Monitor and oversee the implementation of appropriations bills, other legislation passed by the 89th Legislature affecting the allocation or use of funds from the state treasury, and major spending items, including funding for the following:

- Maintaining existing property tax relief and significantly increasing the homestead and business personal property tax exemptions;

House Elections

Election Timelines: Examine statutory timelines related to the administration of elections, including key deadlines. Evaluate the need to make adjustments to improve election administration, transparency, and voter access.

Technology in Elections: Study the growing role of new and rapidly evolving technologies in the election process and political communications.

Election Transparency and Ballot Privacy: Survey the entities and types of election-related information subject to the Texas Public Information Act. Additionally, review ballot privacy and security requirements. Make recommendations to increase transparency, protect the public's right to review and inspect election records, and ensure ballot secrecy remains intact.

House Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans' Affairs

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [HB 33](#), relating to active shooter incidents at primary and secondary school facilities and other emergencies;

House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudences

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [HB 4623](#), relating to liability of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct involving students



House Pensions, Investments and Financial Services

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [HB 3526](#), relating to fiscal transparency for bonds issued by local governmental entities.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas Review: Review the actuarial soundness of the TRS, including current contribution levels, defined benefit plan assumptions, and projected liabilities to ensure the long-term financial stability of the system. Evaluate the impact of basing employer contributions on total payroll, options to increase parity in the contribution rates for all entities, and the impact of benefit enhancements.

House Public Health

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [SB 25](#), relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals

Social Media's Impact on Youth Health and Well-Being: Study the impact of social media platforms and artificial intelligence technologies on the mental health, cognitive development, and behavioral well-being of minors in Texas.

House State Affairs

Strengthening Interoperable Communications: Examine the establishment of a formal Interoperability Council to coordinate a statewide emergency communications strategy, set interoperability standards, support regional systems, and improve coordination among local, state, and federal first responders. Make recommendations on the council's governance, membership, authority, funding, and implementation. Propose state policy and strategies to enhance information sharing and integrate advances in new technologies, including telecommunications and electronic technology, to ensure reliable communications during emergencies.



Public-Private Partnerships: Evaluate state and local public-private partnerships governed by Chapter 2267, Government Code, for effectiveness, competitiveness, and taxpayer transparency. Recommend statutory revisions that encourage public-private partnerships by streamlining and clarifying procedures and obligations.

House Trade, Workforce and Economic Development

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [HB 4903](#), relating to the establishment of the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative and the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative Commission

Child Care Access and Workforce Participation: Study the accessibility, affordability, quality, and coordination of childcare and early childhood systems in Texas. Evaluate how these systems affect workforce participation, labor force attachment, employee retention, and employer productivity across urban, suburban, and rural communities. Examine collaborative strategies through which the state, local governments, employers, and families can work together to increase childcare access and affordability, including public-private partnerships, employer-supported models, local innovation, and cost-sharing approaches.

House Transportation

Speed Enforcement in Work and School Zones: Evaluate measures to enhance roadside worker and public safety, including limited authorization of speed enforcement mechanisms in high-speed work zones and school zones. Consider measures that would safeguard Texans' privacy, prohibit automated retention of data, and prevent citations from being issued by third-party entities.

House Ways and Means

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- [HB 103](#), relating to the creation and maintenance of a database of taxing unit bond, tax, and bond-related project information



Property Tax Relief: Study and consider methods to build on the property tax relief provided by the 89th Legislature. Review the cost and benefits of compressing school district tax rates and increasing the homestead exemption; whether the property tax appraisal system is working as intended, and opportunities to improve the system to benefit homeowners and businesses; and the economic performance of state tax revenue supporting ongoing property tax relief, including the impact of exemptions.

Local Government Spending: Examine local government spending and debt practices, including the use of certificates of obligation, to determine the overall impact on property tax rates. Evaluate other revenue sources, such as fees, utilized by local units of government to facilitate increased spending. Make recommendations to improve the long-term affordability for Texas families by limiting the growth of local government spending.

House Select Committee on Governmental Oversight

Safeguarding Taxpayer Funds: Study how local governments appropriate public funds to, or otherwise contract with, third-party consultants and NGOs for services, including those related to health and human services, public safety, and homelessness policies. Assess trends in third-party services spending and evaluate risks and benefits. Examine the degree of influence third-party consultants and nongovernmental organizations exert on matters of public policy and make recommendations to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure full transparency and accountability in the expenditure of taxpayer funds.

Education Foundations: Examine the role and structure of education foundations that are affiliated with Texas public school districts, including the scope and sources of their revenues and the nature of their financial relationships with school districts. Review the practice of public funds being transferred to or used by these foundations. Assess the applicability of state transparency, reporting, and oversight laws, and determine whether existing law adequately ensures accountability, prevents conflicts of interest, and protects taxpayer resources.

Texas Public Information Act: Study the applicability of the PIAA, the entities currently subject to the Act, its effectiveness, and the necessity of current exemptions from public disclosure. Additionally, review requirements related to public notices and make recommendations to improve citizen awareness and transparency.