



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 14, 2021

SB 15: VIRTUAL LEARNING

- Signed by the Governor on 9/9/21
- Effective immediately
- Allows school districts to set up virtual learning while keeping state funding
- Enables districts to exercise local control over programming
- Expires September 1, 2023



LOCAL REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM (LRLP)

- Must have a C or higher on most recent performance rating.
- If operating a full-time LRLP outside of the virtual school network, the school district must:
 - Include in the program (1) at least one grade level that is assessed, or (2) a complete high school program, including EOCs.
 - Offer in-person instruction.
- Virtual courses may be offered through, synchronous, asynchronous, or a combination of the two. Virtual courses may also be provided in combination with in-person instruction as appropriate to meet the needs of individual students.



A STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL IF:

- Student is enrolled in the school district
- Has reasonable access to in-person instruction
- Meets any additional school-created criteria

A SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERING AN LRLP:

- Must periodically assess the performance of the students
- May remove a student from remote learning if they don't meet the criteria
- May not count a student for ADA if the student has 10 or more unexcused absences in a six-month period



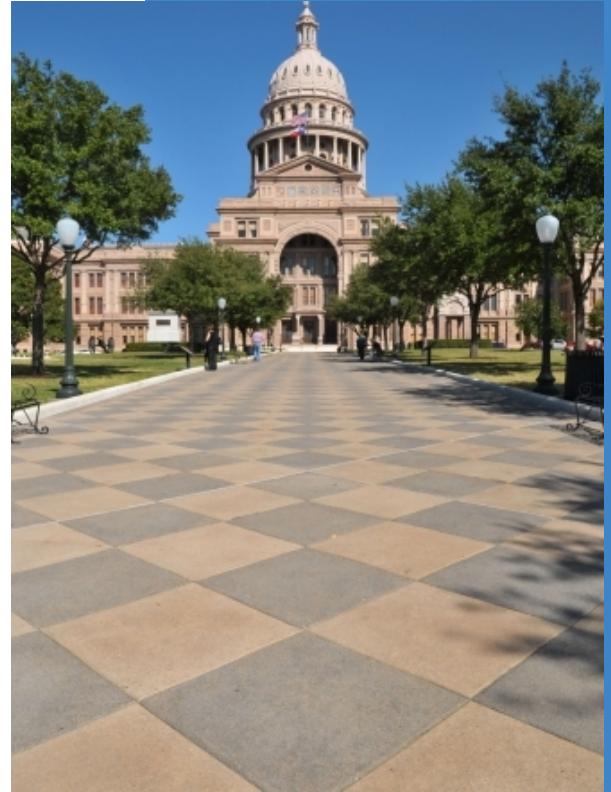
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- A teacher may not provide virtual instruction unless they've completed a professional development course on virtual instruction.
- Students in an LRLP may participate in extracurricular activities in the same manner as in-person students.

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

- A student in LRLP who was in virtual instruction over half of the year last year cannot count towards a district's ADA if the student:
 - Did not achieve satisfactory performance or higher on each assessment taken. If an assessment was not taken, the district can administer an assessment to show grade-level proficiency.
 - Had unexcused absences exceeding 10% last school year.
 - Did not earn a grade of C or higher in all foundation curriculum courses taken virtually last year.



OTHER EDUCATION BILLS – SB 3

- Commissioner is charged with developing a civics training program for teachers and administrators.
- The SBOE is charged with revising the social studies TEKS to develop student's civic knowledge.
- Teachers cannot be forced to discuss widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs, but if they do choose to tackle such subjects they must do so objectively.
- This law does not create a private cause of action against any school employee.

OTHER EDUCATION BILLS – SB 9

- The bill adds the following to the duties of the SHAC: “appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction regarding child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, including likely warning signs that a child may be at risk for sex trafficking, provided that the local school health advisory council’s recommendations under this subdivision do not conflict with the essential knowledge and skills developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter.”



Governor Abbott issued a proclamation announcing a third called special session starting on Monday, September 20, 2021. The proclamation identifies five agenda items:

- Redistricting
- American Rescue Plan funding
- Transgender athletes in UIL sports
- State or local government mandating of COVID-19 vaccines
- Unlawful restraint of dogs

THANKS

Do you have any questions?

