

89th Texas Legislature Review

Immediate Impact Education-Related Bills
July 22, 2025



Important Disclaimer...

TASB Policy Service will begin sending Update 126 to districts in mid-October 2025. Many of the changes from the 89th Legislative Session will take effect **before** we receive Update 126, and districts understandably want to ensure that their policies meet the new requirements.

As in previous legislative years, there is an unavoidable preparation time while they develop appropriate policy recommendations and process the large post-legislative update. To address this time during which local policies may not yet comply with new laws, see policy **Argyle ISD Board Policy BF(LOCAL)**:

Harmony with Law	Newly enacted law is <i>applicable when effective</i> . No policy or regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable law.
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HB 1481

PROHIBITED STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL
COMMUNICATION DEVICES



HB 1481 - Prohibited Student Use of Personal Communication Devices Requires Board of Trustee Approval

- **Requires** school boards to **adopt and implement** a written policy **prohibiting students** from **using cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication** while on school property **during the school day**, unless the device was provided to a student by the school district, and **requires** the policy to **include disciplinary measures** which **may** include confiscation of the device
- **Allows** the required policy to **prohibit** a student from **bringing such a device** on school property **or** to **designate a method for the storage** of the device while the student is on school property during the school day
- **Allows** the required policy to include **provision for disposing of a confiscated device** after having provided the student's parent 90 days written notice of the school's intent to dispose of the device
- **Requires** the policy to **allow use** of a device as necessary to implement an **IEP or Section 504 plan**, by a student with a documented need based on a **directive from a physician**, or as necessary to comply with a **health or safety requirement** imposed by law or the district's or school's safety protocols
- **Requires** the TEA to publish a model policy and for school boards to adopt a policy **within 90 days** of the effective date of the Act
- TEA has announced grants will be available for lockable pouches
- Districts **cannot** charge fees for the return of confiscated communication devices



HB 1481 - Prohibited Student Use of Personal Communication Devices

FNCE (LOCAL) Policy - to be adopted by the Board of Trustees

FNCE (Regulations) - Procedural Recommendations by Administration

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY

1. **Before** entering the school premises, students must power off their ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication.***
2. Before entering the building and while awaiting the opening of school doors, students must place any ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication*** into their backpacks.
3. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at class punctually with their ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication*** completely out of sight and powered off.

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY

1. Maintain your ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication*** securely **within your backpack** for the **duration of the school day.**
2. **Accessing** your ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication*** anywhere on campus during the school day is **strictly prohibited.**

CONCLUSION OF THE SCHOOL DAY

1. Once off-campus, students are permitted to utilize their ***cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, radio devices, paging devices, or any other electronic device capable of communication.***



HB 1481 - Prohibited Student Use of Personal Communication Devices

EXCEPTION: IEP, 504, Physician's Orders

This bill requires the policy to **allow** use of a device as necessary to implement an IEP or Section 504 plan, by a student with a documented need based on a directive from a physician, or as necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or the district's or school's safety protocols (to be defined by TEA).

[FAQ](#): As questions come in, we are updating on the FAQ page.



HB 1481 - Prohibited Student Use of Personal Communication Devices

Recommended Consequences

IF a student's cell phone, smartwatch, and/or wireless headphones/earbuds/AirPods **are visible at all** during the school day:

1ST OFFENSE (*Offense is 'per' student & cumulative*)

- The *cell phone, smartwatch, wireless headphones/earbuds/AirPods or any other electronic device capable of communication* **will be confiscated & stored in the assistant principal's office** for the day, and the parent or guardian **will be notified**.
- A **warning will be issued** to both the student and the parent or guardian **about further consequences** for failing to comply with the cell phone-free policy.
- **Only** the **parent or guardian** is permitted to **pick up** the *cell phone, smartwatch, wireless headphones/earbuds/AirPods or any other electronic device capable of communication*; Students are **not allowed** to retrieve their own devices.
- The offense **will be recorded** in the Student Information System (SIS) using the cell phone violation action code.

2ND OFFENSE (*Offense is 'per' student & cumulative*)

- **All** of the above in 1st Offense, **plus**
- The student will be assigned **1 day of in-school suspension (ISS)**.



HB 1481 - Prohibited Student Use of Personal Communication Devices

3RD OFFENSE (*Offense is 'per' student & cumulative*)

- All of the above in 1st Offense, **plus**
- The student will be assigned 1-3 days of in-school suspension (ISS).
- The student is **no longer eligible** for final exam exemptions.
- Student is **completely banned** from bringing any *cell phone, smartwatch, wireless headphones/earbuds/AirPods or any other electronic device capable of communication* **during the school day at any point.**

4TH OFFENSE: (*Offense is 'per' student & cumulative*)

- All of the above in 1st Offense, **plus**
- An **in-person meeting** will be scheduled with the parent or guardian.
- The remains **ineligible** for final exam exemptions.
- The 4th offense and beyond will be considered **insubordination for refusing to comply** with school rules and guidelines related to *cell phone, smartwatch, wireless headphones/earbuds/AirPods or any other electronic device capable of communication* use and for **bringing a banned item** onto campus. This will be treated as a **serious offense** according to the AISD **Student Code of Conduct**, and consequences will be issued accordingly, which may include DAEP.

Next Steps:

Await finalized model policy from TEA. Bring draft FNCE LOCAL policy and regulations to August 4th special meeting for Board of Trustees consideration. Board can consider complete banning on campus OR storage in backpack & turned "off".





HB 6

D I S C I P L I N E R E F O R M B I L L



HB 6 - Discipline Reform Bill

- Allows **teachers to remove students** from their class if they **repeatedly interfere** with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students or with their classmates' ability to learn, if the student demonstrates behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or abusive toward another person, or if the student engages in bullying. **Eliminates the requirement** that a teacher document the behavior prior to removal.
- Requires **written consent of the teacher** or a **return to class plan** to return a student to the teacher's classroom.
- Allows the **student to appeal the removal** to the school's placement review committee or the threat assessment team.
- Clarifies that only out-of-school suspensions are limited to three days and that **in-school suspensions are not subject to time limits**.
- Requires schools to **provide behavioral support services** and **comparable educational services** to students placed in ISS.
- Allows the **out-of-school suspension of students below third grade** and students who are homeless for **conduct that threatens the immediate health and safety** of other students in the class or documented conduct that results in **repeated or significant disruption** to the classroom.
- Requires a student to be **placed in DAEP for harassment of a school employee or volunteer** regardless of whether the **offense occurred** on school property or at a school activity.
- Requires a student to be placed in DAEP for the offense of deadly conduct, the offense of disorderly conduct involving a firearm, or the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons, **regardless of whether the offense occurred** on school property or at a school activity.
- Allows a student to be placed in DAEP for the **offense of disruptive activities, intentional and repeated disruption of classes**, or possession and use of a vape
- **Prohibits any exemptions** from **Chapter 37** in the District of Innovation Plan (DOI)

Next Steps:

~highlights from the Bill - not all-inclusive of requirements

Policy updates expected in TASB Update 126 mid-October.





SB 920

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N O F
M E D I C A T I O N S B I L L



SB 920 - Administration of Medications

Requires Board of Trustee Approval

Allows a policy adopted by a school board related to the administration of medication to permit a school employee to administer non-prescription medication without further authorization or written protocol from the student's health care provider if the parent has provided a written request, the medication is unexpired and from a properly labeled and original container, and at a dose that is consistent with the instructions on the label

Next Steps:

Policy updates expected in TASB Update 126 mid-October.





SB 401

U I L P A R T I C I P A T I O N F O R N O N -
E N R O L L E D (H O M E S C H O O L)
S T U D E N T S



SB 401 - UIL Participation for Non-Enrolled (Homeschool) Students

Requires Board of Trustee Opt-Out

- Since 2021, Texas law has allowed this **IF** a school district **opted in**.
- In 2023, Texas law **added funding** to participants if districts opted in.
- Moving forward, **SB 401 requires** school districts to allow non-enrolled students who otherwise meet UIL eligibility criteria to have the same opportunity to participate in UIL activities as an enrolled student, **unless the school board adopts a policy declining** to grant non-enrolled students the opportunity to participate. (**opt out - previous law was opt in**)
- If the school district in which a non-enrolled student resides adopts a policy not to grant such students the opportunity to participate in UIL activities, the student **may** participate in UIL activities in the closest district that does grant the opportunity to participate to non-enrolled students. Schools that allow homeschool participation **are not required** to allow homeschool students from outside of their school district to participate in UIL activities for their schools. The law allows it but **does not** require it.
- Homeschool students are subject to the **same rules and procedures**, including the **15-day rule**, as any other student, and will be required to complete a **Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF)**.
- If the student **moved into the attendance zone within the previous 12 months** or is **participating at a school outside of the attendance zone** of where the parents of the student reside, the DEC should review that form and, upon request of a DEC member, a full hearing of the DEC may be required for varsity participation.



SB 401 - UIL Participation for Non-Enrolled (Homeschool) Students

Summary from UIL on July 9, 2025

- It is important for schools to note the **change in law** from an **opt-in to an opt-out**.
- Unless a school board **adopts a policy** to opt out of allowing homeschool student participation, this new law states homeschool students **are eligible** to participate in UIL activities for that school.
- To **opt out** of homeschool participation, school districts **must adopt such a policy** by **September 1, 2025**.
- While UIL activities for the 2025-2026 school year start prior to September 1, this **deadline extension** is intended to give districts time make a decision.
- More information can be found on the [UIL website](#) including an FAQ that covers a variety of questions and scenarios.

Next Steps:

Effective for the 2025-26 School Year - Policy adoption deadline is September 1, 2025.

Discuss as a Board of Trustees this new requirement. Consider for action FD & FM LOCAL policy revision to 'Opt Out' at August 4th special meeting.





SB 12

P A R E N T A L R I G H T S B I L L



SB 12 - Parental Rights Bill

- **Requires** Grievance Process and Timeline Updates (impacting policies DGBA, FNG, and GF)
- **Prohibits** school districts from **authorizing or sponsoring** a **student club** based on **sexual orientation** or **gender identity**
- **Prohibits** instruction, guidance, activities, or programming regarding **sexual orientation** or **gender identity**
- **Parental notification requirements** regarding certain topics prior to the beginning of the school year
- **Requires** annual facility usage reporting to TEA
- **Prohibits** DEI practices & annual certification of compliance
- **Prohibits** exemption through District of Innovation Plan (DOI) for School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)
- Many other components - lengthy bill - we continue to process as information is made available

~highlights from the Bill - not all-inclusive of requirements

Next Steps:

Effective September 1, 2025. Policy updates expected in TASB Update 126 mid-October. There are parental notification requirements effective September 1st; awaiting guidance on notification requirements when starting school before September 1, 2025.





SB 13

LIBRARY STANDARDS BILL



SB 13 - Library Standards Bill

- **Parental rights** in the **library book checkout process** for their child
- **Requires** school districts to provide **access for parents to a catalog of available library materials** at each library and to allow parents to submit a list of materials their student cannot check out
- **Requires** school districts that use a learning management system or online learning portal to include in the system or portal a record of each time the student checks out a library material, including the title, author, genre, and return date
- **Updates** book challenging processes
- Many other components - **lengthy bill** - we continue to process as information is made available

~highlights from the Bill - not all-inclusive of requirements

Next Steps:

Effective September 1, 2025. Awaiting finalized model policy from TEA.

Bring draft EFB LOCAL policy and regulations to an August board meeting for Board of Trustees consideration.





SB 569

V I R T U A L S C H O O L B I L L



SB 569 – Virtual School Bill

Requires the Commissioner to **adopt rules** related to establishing **full-time hybrid and virtual campuses** which must **require districts** to:

- a. engage in **a year of planning** before offering a course
- b. develop an **academic plan that incorporates curriculum and instructional practices aligned with TEKS**, progress monitoring, methods for meeting the needs of students in **special populations**, and **compliance** with state law requirements
- c. develop an **operations plan** addressing staffing, designation of school leaders, professional development, family engagement, calendars and schedules, enrollment eligibility, cybersecurity and student data privacy, and education services provided by a third-party
- d. demonstrate the **capacity to execute** the plan **successfully**

~highlights from the Bill - not all-inclusive of requirements

Next Steps:

Await Commissioner Rules on SB 569 and determine Learner Services staffing needs for 2026-27 to begin planning for the options in this bill in 2027-28.





SB 571

REQUIRED MISCONDUCT
REPORTING BILL



SB 571 – Required Misconduct Reporting & Notices Bill

- **Requires** principals to report to the superintendent **within 48 hours** if the principal becomes aware of evidence the educator abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor, was involved in or solicited a romantic or sexual relationship with a student or minor, engaged in inappropriate communications with a student or minor, or failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with a student or minor, as defined by the Board
- **Requires** superintendents to report to the **TEA & State Board of Education within 48 hours** of becoming aware of the above evidence and when an educator is terminated and there is evidence of the above
- Adds improper relationship between educator and student to the definition of abuse
- **Requires** reports of child abuse or neglect to be made **within 24 hours**
- **Requires** reports of child abuse made to law enforcement agencies to be made to law enforcement agencies **other than** school district police departments
- Repeals the provision that allows superintendents to complete investigations of misconduct prior to reporting and not report if the investigation found the allegations were false

~highlights from the Bill - not all-inclusive of requirements

Next Steps:

Policy updates expected in TASB Update 126 mid-October.



This will be an ongoing process all year.

- The bills presented tonight were chosen due to their urgency as the beginning of the school year approaches in relation to the bills' effective dates.
- We do **NOT** have all of the answers, as many bills require "**Commissioner Rules**" to be written by TEA.
- Commissioner of Education stated that TEA will release new guidance "monthly" throughout the school year.
- We will bring tonight's policies to August 4th Special Meeting for consideration.
- TASB will provide MOST policy changes in their next Policy Update.
- We will communicate with parents & students in the coming weeks.
- All questions from parents, students, and community should be submitted through Just Ask Argyle so we can catalog our FAQs.

