



LEWISVILLE ISD

# Legislative Update

January 13, 2025

# 89th Legislative Session

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**First Day of the Regular Session: January 14, 2025**

**Last Day of the Regular Session: June 2, 2025**

**60 Day Deadline for Bill Filing: March 14, 2025**

Emergency items identified by Governor Abbott determine which legislation can be moved in the first 60 days of the session.

# Current Status of Bills Filed

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**43 Bills related to school finance**

**5 Bills related to vouchers/ESA's**

**22 Bills related to school safety**

**22 Bills related to special education**

**37 Bills related to curriculum and instruction**

# Senate Education Committee

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## Released Interim Report:

On April 11 and September 10, 2024, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick issued new interim charges to the Senate Education Committee:

- Charge One: Reading and Math Readiness
- Charge Two: Testing Reforms
- Charge Three: COVID-19 Funding Oversight
- Charge Four: Improving K-12 College Pathways
- Charge Five: Monitoring

# Senate Education Committee

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## Recommendations of note in Interim Report:

### Charge One: Reading and Math Readiness

- Reinstatement of annual release of letter grade accountability ratings
- Expansion of ADSY to middle school - recall this requires a district to add 30 days to the calendar in order to access additional funding
- Expansion of Early Education Allotment so that PreK 3 and 4 students generate funding

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## Recommendations of note in Interim Report:

### Charge Two: Testing Reforms

- Consider reforms to reduce the length of summative assessments and enhance the current optional interim assessments to assess and monitor student learning.
  - Members expressed particular interest in the potential of through-year assessments to reduce testing induced stress, offer a better testing experience, maintain the benefits of the current STAAR test, and provide teachers with resources and support for not only administering the assessments but following up with targeted student interventions.
  - Questions about how to resolve ongoing participant challenges – such as accessing test question details with results – and ensuring an adequate balance between local control of curriculum scope and through-year testing validity were also raised in addition to considerations regarding how to logistically scale the pilot statewide.
  - Overall, members commended the work and responsiveness of TEA on TTAP thus far and testimony underscored that with ongoing refinement and additional efforts,

## Recommendations of note in Interim Report:

### Charge Five: Monitoring

- Legislation related to school safety passed in the 88th:
  - The Legislature should continue to explore the appropriate balance between a mixed state local funding partnership in a heightened environment of increased threats in school settings
    - School districts have consistently expressed concerns that the \$10 per student and \$15,000 per campus School Safety allotment is insufficient to fully cover the costs of a commissioned peace officer.

# House Education Committee

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## Has not released Interim Report yet

Heard testimony in August 2024 on the following charges:

- Charge One: Monitoring legislation passed in the 88th including HB 1605, HB 2209, SB 2124
- Charge Two: Educational Opportunity
- Charge Three: Teacher Certifications
- Charge Four: Early Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes



# Issues absent from the interim charges

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**Funding for public education**

**Educator compensation**

# Recent estimate from Comptroller

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- Lawmakers are anticipated to end the 2024-2025 biennium with a positive balance of \$23.76 billion in unspent revenue, which includes \$4.5 billion in a contingency rider for school finance and Education Savings Account legislation that never became law.

# Fund Schools First

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[fundschooolsfirst.org](https://fundschooolsfirst.org)

**TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE  
COMMITTED TO IMPROVING STUDENT  
OUTCOMES, BUT THE BUYING POWER  
OF THE BASIC ALLOTMENT HAS  
DECREASED BY \$1,340 SINCE 2020.**

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed sweeping school finance reform in HB 3 almost unanimously. Since HB 3 took effect, constant dollar funding for public school districts has decreased by \$9.86 billion.

# Fund Schools First

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## Increase in the Basic Allotment

\$ 1340



## Average Raise for Teachers, Counselors, Librarians, & Nurses

**\$5,505**

## Special Education Allotment Increase

**\$1.38 Billion**

## School Safety Allotment Increase

**\$133.9 Million**

## Decrease in Recapture

**-\$788 Million**

# LISD Legislative Website

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**Our district website will be updated this week**

**Our letter template will focus on prompting people to share their stories about the difference our public schools make for their children.**

Last session our community sent 3,000 letters to our elected officials.