

Key Education Bills from 89th Legislative Session (2025)

TASB Legal Services

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
|--|--|---|
| Finance | | |
| SB 1 | State budget | Appropriates about \$338 billion over the biennium with an additional \$9.3 billion for public education, \$3.1 billion in all funds for student population projections, and \$51 billion for previous and impending property tax relief. |
| HB 2 | School finance | <p>Sets aside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.7 billion for teacher compensation • \$500 million for non-administrative staff pay raises • \$1.3 billion for a new fixed cost allotment • \$850 million for special education • \$135 million for teacher preparation • \$153 million for CTE • \$433 million for early learning programs • \$430 million in additional school safety funding • \$200 million for charter facilities • \$318 million more for small- and mid-size school allotment • \$243 million Bluebonnet HQIM <p>Includes \$55 for the basic allotment by repurposing the golden penny yield.</p> |
| SB 2 | Education savings accounts | <p>Provides most participants an ESA equal to 85% of total per-student funding (around \$10k). Students with disabilities may receive up to \$30k. Homeschool students may receive up to \$2k. Applicants will be prioritized in this order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with disabilities from families with an annual income at or below 500% of the federal poverty level, which includes any four-person household earning less than roughly \$160,000 • Families at or below 200% of the poverty level, which includes any four-person household earning less than roughly \$64,300 • Families between 200% and 500% of the poverty level • Families at or above 500% of the poverty level (limited to 20% of the program's budget) <p>Provides for administration through the Comptroller's office.</p> |
| SB 4 ; SB 23 | Hold harmless for homestead exemptions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises homestead exemption from \$100k to \$140k. • Raises additional exemption for disabled and over 65 from \$10k to \$60k. • Holds school districts harmless for the lost revenue. • Contains transitional and other calculations for state aid. |

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
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| SB 2185 | Bilingual education allotment | Adds a multiplier of 0.15 to the basic allotment for emergent bilingual students and 0.05 for other students in language immersion programs |
| SB 568 | Special education allotment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TEA to create, provide technical assistance, and monitor compliance with a comprehensive system for special education. Requires school boards to hold an annual meeting on special education. Adjusts weights of per student funding based on eight tiers of intensity of services for special education. |
| SB 260 | Safety allotment | Essentially doubles the allotment, up to \$20 per student and \$33,540 per campus. |
| HB 9 | Tax exemption | Increases the exemption to \$125k for business personal property |
| Taxation | | |
| SB 1025 and SB 506 | Ballot language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires top of tax increase propositions to include “THIS IS A TAX INCREASE.” Requires a proposition to state the issue with such definiteness, certainty, and neutrality that not misleading. |
| SB 1502 | Adoption of ad valorem tax rate | Prohibits adoption of disaster pennies in the tax rate after a VATRE fails in the same tax year. |
| SB 1453 | I&S tax rate | Limits the I&S rate to the minimum amount for debt service unless a specific explanation is provided and the motion passes by 60 percent of the board. |
| SB 843 | TEA database of school taxation | <p>Requires districts to provide detailed information about tax rates and elections to TEA for a state database.</p> <p>See also HB 103, which requires all taxing units (including ISDs) to provide the Comptroller similar information for a state database, and HB 3526, which requires a similar database for the Bond Review Board.</p> |
| Elections | | |
| HB 3546 and SB 1494 | November election date | Permits school districts to change to the November uniform election date and adjust terms. |
| Risk Management | | |
| HB 4623 | Liability for sexual misconduct | Waives governmental immunity and allows a district to be liable up to \$500k for grossly negligent, reckless, or intentional misconduct in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee who commits sexual misconduct or fails to report suspected child abuse. |
| Governance | | |
| HB 1522 | Posting for open meetings and budget adoption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires “3 business days” instead of 72 hours’ notice for meetings. Adds additional posting requirements for budget meetings. |
| HB 3112 | Open meetings | Adds OMA exception for cybersecurity. |

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| SB 413 | Meeting minutes and recording | Requires minutes to include each members' vote and be posted online within 7 days of meeting along with any resolution adopted at meeting; meetings must be recorded, and recordings must be available to public. |
| HB 210 | Prohibition on vendor related to trustee | Makes it a criminal offense for a vendor to bid on or receive a contract from a district if a trustee or close relative has a substantial interest, which is defined as 10% ownership interest, or has received or been promised a gift or services valued over \$250. |
| HB 4310 | Public information | Describes a special right of access for members of governmental bodies to obtain public records promptly without charge and to be able to sign a confidentiality agreement in order to access confidential records. |
| Purchasing | | |
| SB 1173 | Competitive purchasing | Raises the threshold amount to trigger competitive purchasing requirements to \$100k |
| School Safety | | |
| HB 33 | Uvalde Strong Act | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a security review of facilities to confirm compliance and identify vulnerabilities based on rules set by the Commissioner, in consultation with DPS, TDEM, and TxSSC. Requires every campus to have a breaching tool and ballistic shield. Requires ALERRT to create training for law enforcement and medical personnel and a template for debriefing active shooter incidents. Requires every school district and law enforcement unit to have PIO to be certified in emergency communications. Provides for DPS to lead tabletop exercises and in person drills with schools and for mutual aid agreements. Requires all counties to have annual meetings related to school safety coordination. Provides mental health support to first responders involved in critical incidents. |
| HB 121 | School safety | Addresses training of security personnel, annual renewal of good cause exception for armed officer, threat assessment for students in special ed, and agency authority |
| HB 1458 | Reserve and retired officers | Allows new options for compliance with armed officer requirement including reserve and retired peace officers. |
| SB 57 | Safety of individuals with disabilities | Requires emergency plans and drills to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. |
| SB 870 | School marshals | Allows open carry while in uniform. |
| Parental Rights | | |
| SJR 34 | Parental rights | Acknowledges parental rights in Texas Constitution. |

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SB 12 | Parental rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes parental rights in education. Requires detailed facility reports to TEA. Prohibits DEI activities in public schools. Prohibits helping with social transitioning of gender. Ensures parents have access to full information about their student and instruction. Requires notice and consent about health screenings, treatment, and records. Requires parent comments to be accepted through a portal; public comments to be prioritized at board meetings; and board meetings to occur outside of typical work hours. Codifies and substantially changes local grievance procedures. |
| SB 204 | Parental rights | Requires board members to have training on parental rights with content set by SBOE and requires TEA to create a parental rights handbook. |
| SB 13 | Library books | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires new policy by 2025-26 school year. Requires library collections to exclude content that is indecent or profane. Requires schools to give parents access to the library catalog and records of what their own child obtained from the library through an online parent portal. Provides for a School Library Advisory Council. Requires the board to publish publicly and approve or reject a list of library materials that have been donated or proposed to be procured. Establishes detailed procedures for library book challenges. |
| School Day | | |
| SB 11 | Designated prayer and reading time | Requires a record vote on whether to set a daily time for prayer and reading religious texts for employees and students with parental consent. |
| SB 1049 | Release time | Requires districts to allow release time at parent's request for religious instruction course offered by private entity. |
| SB 207 | Excused absences | Adds mental health professionals to excused absences for medical appointments. |
| HB 367 | Excused absences | Requires documentation of absence for life-threatening disease on a specific form. |
| Homeschooling | | |
| HB 2674 | Homeschooling | Prohibits state regulation of homeschooling. |
| SB 401 | UIL participation by homeschoolers | Requires a local policy by a date certain in order for homeschool students not to participate. |
| Instruction | | |
| HB 100 | Instructional materials | Restricts districts from selecting books rejected by the SBOE. |

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
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| HB 120 | Accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes the definition of CCMR. Requires local goal setting and annual report. Expands P-TECH and R-PEP. Provides facilities funding for CTE. |
| SB 25 | Health and nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires HS elective on nutrition. Prohibits holding students back from physical activity for academic or behavioral reasons. |
| SB 1191 | GPA calculation | Requires the Commissioner to create a standardized method of calculating GPAs. |
| SB 569 | Virtual school network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeals the TxVSN; existing programs can continue until the end of the 2026-27 school year. Allows districts and charters to deliver instruction (and receive funding) through hybrid courses, virtual courses, full-time hybrid programs, and full-time virtual programs. |
| Student Issues | | |
| HB 6 | Student discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits DOI exemptions from Chapter 37. Requires the SCOC to allow DAEP as an option for first-time use or possession of vape. If not DAEP, then ISS for 10 days. Allows a policy on parental involvement that would shorten DAEP or expulsion with a behavior agreement. Requires the commissioner to create a model return to class plan following teacher removal. States ISS is unlimited with check ins every 10 days. Permits OSS for students below grade 3 for certain conduct. Allows a parent to request ISS instead of OSS if unable to supervise the student. Creates a new “virtual expulsion” option. Adds more special ed expertise to the SSSP team (BTA). |
| HB 1481 | Cell phone policy | Requires policy prohibiting students from using cell phones and smart watches on school property during school day. |
| SB 920 | Administration of medication | Allows school employees to administer OTCs on parent request in accordance with policy. |
| Employment | | |
| HB 3372 | Prohibition on “moonlighting” for administrators | Prohibits outside work by administrators for vendors; prohibits outside work by superintendents and assistant superintendents for curriculum and administrative service providers and other educational entities; permits limited outside work by other administrators with notice and approval of the school board. |
| HB 762 and SB 2237 | Cap on severance pay | Limits severance pay to 20 weeks’ compensation and is prohibited when an employee or contractor is dismissed for cause. Agreements must be posted online. |

| Bill Number | Topic | Description |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| HB 3126 | Opting back into TRS Active Care | Allows districts that opted out of TRS Active Care to return in less than 5 years with notice and “risk stabilization” fee. |
| SB 571 | Notification of criminal history | Expands reporting by districts to SBEC and TEA regarding criminal history and misconduct of school employees. Changes deadline for mandatory report of suspected child abuse to 24 hours. |
| SB 965 | Prayer by employees | Prohibits infringing on right of employee to pray or engage in religious speech on duty unless necessary to further compelling interest and limitation is narrowly tailored. |
| Facilities | | |
| SB 10 | Posting the Ten Commandments | Requires posting the Ten Commandments (as written in the bill) in every classroom if donated. |
| SB 2986 | Religious use | Allows school boards to permit religious use of facilities at rate necessary to cover expense of operations. |

This chart was prepared hurriedly at the close of the legislative session without the benefit of extensive analysis. Please consider this chart a brief overview and work with your school law counsel for a more thorough treatment of new legislation and policy impacts.

This document is provided for educational purposes and contains information to facilitate a general understanding of the law. References to judicial or other official proceedings are intended to be a fair and impartial account of public records, which may contain allegations that are not true. This publication is not an exhaustive treatment of the law, nor is it intended to substitute for the advice of an attorney. Consult your own attorney to apply these legal principles to specific fact situations.

Published June 2025



TASB Policy Service

Important Changes to Your District's Policy Manual

Update 126
Bills & Local Policy Impact

Bills From the 89th Legislative Session That Affect Your Local Policies

| Bill | Local Policy Impact |
|-------------------------|---|
| SB 12 | BE(LOCAL) — Board meetings must be outside of typical work hours BED(LOCAL) — Emphasis that public comment shall occur at the beginning of the meeting CJ(LOCAL) — Prohibition of diversity, equity, and inclusion and prohibited classroom instruction DFBB(LOCAL) — Reasons added for nonrenewal of a term contract DGBA(LOCAL), FNG(LOCAL), and GF(LOCAL) — Timelines changed; must hold a hearing; complaints against employees; and district must ensure policy and forms are easily accessible on district website DH(LOCAL) — Provisions added regarding prohibited classroom instruction, prohibited DEI duties, and prohibited assistance with social transitioning EEP(LOCAL) — New code regarding posting of instructional plans and course syllabi EFA(LOCAL) — Provisions added regarding parent request for instructional material review EIA(LOCAL) — Districts must now provide at least two opportunities for in-person parent-teacher conferences each year FA(LOCAL) — New code regarding a parent portal |
| HB 1522 | BE(LOCAL) — 72 hours' agenda posting changed to three business days |
| SB 413 | BE(LOCAL) — Voting needs to be a record vote; therefore, voice vote may no longer be permitted |
| HB 150 | CQB(LOCAL) — Notifications for a cybersecurity incident |
| HB 3512 | CQD(LOCAL) — New code regarding required training for artificial intelligence (AI) as well as use of AI within the district |
| SB 8 | CSA(LOCAL) — Provisions added regarding designation and use of private spaces |
| SB 1173 | CV(LOCAL) — Language change for competitive purchasing threshold in relation to construction contracts |
| HB 3372 | DBD(LOCAL) — Statement added regarding personal services performed by an administrator |

| Bill | Local Policy Impact |
|-------------------------|---|
| HB 2 | DEC(LOCAL) — Statement added regarding daily rate of pay and exception added for concurrent use of paid leave FFB(LOCAL) — Statement added regarding notification to teaching staff of threat FFF(LOCAL) — Adjusted text to clarify this policy applies to more than just educators |
| SB 1049 | FEF(LOCAL) — Provisions added listing the requirements for a student to attend a released time course |
| SB 920 | FFAC(LOCAL) — Nonprescription medication provided by parent is in accordance with legal requirements |
| SB 1619 | FFAC(LOCAL) — Delivery system options for epinephrine |
| SB 571 | FFG(LOCAL) — Reporting timeline changed from 48 to 24 hours |
| HB 6 | FO(LOCAL) — Optional provisions regarding parental involvement in disciplinary placements |
| SB 706 | GKA(LOCAL) — DOI exemptions no longer permitted from anything in Chapter 37, and weapons exception is for an individual who holds a handgun license in accordance with state law |

Please note that this list of potential changes to your district's local policies is preliminary and subject to change.

This information is provided for educational purposes only to facilitate a general understanding of the law or other regulatory matter. This information is neither an exhaustive treatment on the subject nor is this intended to substitute for the advice of an attorney or other professional advisor. Consult with your attorney or professional advisor to apply these principles to specific fact situations.

Summary of Local Policy Recommendations

Update 126 includes the following local policy recommendations:

| Local Policy | What Changed | Why it Changed |
|--|--|---|
| BE: Board Meetings | <p>Several recommended revisions have been made to this policy on board meetings. SB 12 prompted new language at Meeting Place and Time indicating that board meetings will be held outside of typical work hours. Language at Notice to Members has been adjusted to reflect HB 1522, which requires board agendas to be posted for three business days, rather than 72 hours, before the meeting.</p> <p>At Deadline, the recommended revisions are also in response to HB 1522. We offer for your consideration language requiring that agenda items be submitted 10 calendar days before a meeting. This deadline would provide the district sufficient time to compile items and post an agenda by the statutory deadline.</p> <p>SB 413 requires roll call voting, so the language at Record Vote has been revised accordingly. A paragraph in the Minutes section has been removed, as the statement is true for all district records and it is not necessary to separately address retention in this policy. Please refer to CPC(LOCAL) and your district's record retention procedures.</p> | <p>SB 12</p> <p>HB 1522</p> <p>SB 413</p> |
| BED: Board Meetings, Public Participation | Recommended revisions comply with the SB 12 requirement that public comment occur at the beginning of board meetings. | SB 12 |
| CJ: Contracted Services | Recommended new provisions reflect that contractors may not engage in or assign instructional activities prohibited by law or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties under SB 12. Violations will result in termination of the contract. | SB 12 |
| CJA: Contracted Services, Background Checks and Required Reporting | The subtopic name has been adjusted to Background Checks and Required Reporting to more accurately describe the contents of the legal framework at this code. No changes have been made to the local text, and the district has not been charged for this revision. | Subtopic name change |

| Local Policy | What Changed | Why it Changed |
|--|---|----------------------|
| CLE: Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Management, Required Displays | The subtopic name has been adjusted to Required Displays to more accurately describe the contents of the legal framework at this code. No changes have been made to the local text, and the district has not been charged for this revision. | Subtopic name change |
| CQB: Technology Resources, Cybersecurity | Recommended revisions comply with HB 150, which moves cybersecurity training requirements from the Department of Information Resources to the Texas Cyber Command and includes details about notifications for cybersecurity incidents in addition to security breaches. | HB 150 |
| CQD: Technology Resources, Artificial Intelligence | This new recommended policy addresses artificial intelligence training requirements based on HB 150 and HB 1500, as well as the use of artificial intelligence by district employees and students. | HB 150 HB 1500 |
| CSA: Facility Standards, Safety and Security | SB 8 from the Second Special Session prompted the inclusion of a section on Designation and Use of Private Spaces. The superintendent is directed to designate private spaces in accordance with law and to develop regulations to ensure compliance. | SB 8 |
| CV: Facilities Construction | The competitive purchasing threshold established in law has changed from \$50,000 to \$100,000 as reflected in CH(LEGAL). The language at Construction Contracts is recommended for revision here to refer to the legal threshold rather than a specific dollar amount. Policy BJA(LOCAL) establishes the superintendent's delegation authority; therefore "or designee" is recommended for deletion at Project Administration. | SB 1173 |
| DBD: Employment Requirements and Restrictions, Conflict of Interest | A new recommended section on Personal Services Performed by an Administrator includes language relating to administrator work from HB 3372. | HB 3372 |
| DEC: Compensation and Benefits, Leaves and Absences | HB 2 prompted recommended revisions to include Daily Rate of Pay under the Definitions section, as well as a section regarding Concurrent Use of Paid Leave during Family and Medical Leave for classroom teachers. | HB 2 |

| Local Policy | What Changed | Why it Changed |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| DFBB: Term Contracts, Nonrenewal | Based on SB 12, engaging or assigning diversity, equity, and inclusion duties, as well as instructional activities prohibited by law, are recommended for inclusion in the list of reasons a term contract employee may be nonrenewed. The item related to disability and the ability to perform the essential functions of the job has been amended for clarity. | SB 12 |
| DGBA: Personnel-Management Relations, Employee Complaints/ Grievances | We recommend for your consideration this revised policy, which includes revisions prompted by the applicable portions of SB 12. | SB 12 |
| DH: Employee Standards of Conduct | The recommended revision to the text at Weapons Prohibited – Exceptions reflects changes under SB 706 regarding reciprocity with a handgun license from another state. Sections on Prohibited Classroom Instruction or Activities; Prohibited Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Duties; and Social Transitioning are recommended for inclusion pursuant to SB 12. At Relationships with Students, the recommended revision addresses the requirement under SB 571 regarding notice of suspected misconduct by an educator or district service provider. | SB 706 SB 12 SB 571 |
| EEP: Instructional Arrangements, Lesson Plans | This new local policy includes recommended language from SB 12 on instructional plans and course syllabi. | SB 12 |
| EFA: Instructional Resources, Instructional Materials | In accordance with SB 12, a section on Parent Request for Instructional Material Review is recommended for inclusion. The policy requires the superintendent to develop administrative regulations to ensure that parents or guardians can request review of instructional materials individually or through a petition process with other parents. | SB 12 |
| EHBAF: Special Education, Video/ Audio Monitoring | The enclosed revisions are recommended to update language regarding special education classrooms in accordance with HB 2 and to update the timeframe for reporting suspected misconduct or child abuse as required by SB 571. | HB 2 SB 571 |

| Local Policy | What Changed | Why it Changed |
|--|---|-------------------|
| EIA: Academic Achievement, Grading/Progress Reports to Parents | Recommended revisions reflect the SB 12 requirement that each parent of a student be afforded the opportunity for at least two in-person conferences with the student's teacher per year. At Academic Dishonesty, language is recommended that indicates the use of artificial intelligence without permission constitutes academic dishonesty. | SB 12 |
| FA: Parent Rights and Responsibilities | This new local policy is recommended for inclusion in the district's manual to address the SB 12 requirement to establish a parent portal on the district's website, through which parents may submit comments to administrators or the board. | SB 12 |
| FEF: Attendance, Released Time | This local policy is recommended for inclusion in the district's manual to reflect SB 1049 requirements regarding released time courses. | SB 1049 |
| FFAC: Wellness and Health Services, Medical Treatment | A recommended revision at Medication Provided by Parent has been made due to SB 920, which now allows school employees, including nurses, to administer nonprescription medication in accordance with legal requirements. At Epinephrine, references to "epinephrine auto-injector" have been updated to "epinephrine delivery system" in accordance with SB 1619. | SB 920 SB 1619 |
| FFB: Student Welfare, Crisis Intervention | As required by HB 2, a provision is recommended for inclusion addressing the required notification that must be provided to teaching staff when a threat is made against the campus. | HB 2 |
| FFF: Student Welfare, Student Safety | HB 2 prompted recommended revisions to this local policy regarding notifying a parent of a student with whom an employee or service provider is alleged to have engaged in misconduct. | HB 2 |
| FFG: Student Welfare, Child Abuse and Neglect | A recommended change at Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect reflects that SB 571 requires reporting within 24 hours of learning of the facts giving rise to suspicion of abuse or neglect of a child. The revision to item 1 at Making a Report also comes from SB 571. | SB 571 |

| Local Policy | What Changed | Why it Changed |
|---|---|----------------|
| FNG: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student and Parent Complaints/ Grievances | Substantial revisions to this student and parent complaint policy are recommended to reflect requirements in SB 12 and other legal requirements reflected in the legal framework at this code. | SB 12 |
| FO: Student Discipline | Minor edits are recommended to the language regarding Video and Audio Monitoring that make such monitoring permissive and clarify what should happen when video and audio recording equipment is in use. HB 6 removed a district's authority to exempt itself from student discipline requirements through a District of Innovation plan. If your district had District of Innovation text at this code, it is recommended for deletion. | HB 6 |
| GF: Public Complaints | We recommend for your consideration this revised public complaint policy, which includes revisions prompted by the applicable portions of SB 12. | SB 12 |
| GKA: Community Relations, Conduct on School Premises | Language regarding handguns is recommended for revision due to SB 706. | SB 706 |

The [Legal Tips for Policy Development](#), available in the Policy Online® Governance and Management Library (TASB login required), describe common legal concerns and best practices relating to many of these policies.