

Board Report Item

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

May 24, 2017

Legislative Update – 85th Regular Session

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens’ advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is references pending legislation as related to public education and is intended to generate discussion regarding relevant legislation.

Objectives:

- The New STAAR Report Card – intended to improve communication and transparency. Find more information at: <http://tea.texas.gov/studentreport/>
- Lt. Governor Dan Patrick threatens special session(s). Find more information at: <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/05/17/analysis-patrick-takes-hostages-and-control-legislative-session/>
- Special Education Voucher Bill inserted into HB 21. Find more information at: <http://www.texasaft.org/voucher-bill-senate-vote-write-letter-opposition-now/>
- HB 23 addresses the Special Education Voucher Bill “slipped in last week” to HB 21. Find more information at: <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/house-plans-counter-patrick-school-finance-offer-with-vouchers/DHOxeWmoy77gObbeMvRBSN/>

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To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the Senate Committee on Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C530>

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the House Committee on Public Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C410>

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Operational Impact:

None noted

Results:

Advantages:

Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature may have significant impact to policies directly impacting public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

Disadvantages:

None noted

Other Options:

None noted