



Update to the Texas Education Code for School Board Members 83rd Texas Legislature

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- 5500 bills submitted**
- Education Bills.....
- 630 House bills filed
 - 299 Senate bills filed

School Finance

Senate Bill I:

- adds \$3.4B to formula funding for districts
- includes an additional \$2B for enrollment growth
- Sets the Regular program Adjustment Factor at 1.0
- Increases the basic allotment from \$4,765 to \$4,950 in 2014 and \$5,040 in 2015
- increases the student success initiative (SSI) to \$60.5M (+ \$24M)

School Finance

Senate Bill I:

- includes \$330M to fund the TRS transition aid for school districts for FY 2015 per the passage of SB 1458
- Provides \$838.7M for Instructional Materials
- Authorizes \$98.4M for assessments
- Provides an additional \$10M for professional development
- increases Communities in Schools funding to \$40.7M (+ \$11.5M)

School Finance

- HB 10 – adds \$630M for public education and undoes deferred payments law
- HB 1025 – includes additional \$200M in Public Ed. funding for biennium
 - Repeals the scheduled payment deferral of August 2013 (adds \$1.75B to this year's budget)
- HB 2610 – References time warrants paid by districts
- HB 3677 – Provides for the issuance of special license plates to benefit the Foundation School Program

School Finance

- SB 758 – Reverses the deferral of one school payment from the state that was approved during the 2011 legislative session

Curriculum

- HB 462 – states that the SBOE may not adopt Common Core standards and districts may not use Common Core standards to comply with requirements to teach the TEKS
 - school districts and charters may not be required to offer any aspect of a Common Core state standards curriculum
 - TEA is prohibited from adopting or developing criterion-referenced tests that are based on Common Core standards

Curriculum

- HB 809 – requires the Texas Workforce Commission to provide quarterly updates to TEA relating to current and projected employment opportunities
- HB 842 – allows students concurrent college credit for certain HS courses, if approved by THECB
- HB 897 – Requires CPR instruction in grades 7 – 12

Curriculum

- HB 1018 - School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

The SHAC duties are expanded to include recommendations about joint-use agreements or collaboration strategies between the district and community organizations or agencies

- agreements must address the liability of each party
- the SHAC is to establish a physical activity and fitness planning subcommittee to make recommendations to increase activity levels and improve fitness among students
- recommendations must be included in the SHAC's annual written report to trustees

Curriculum

- HB 1926 – Legislation expanding and revising the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)

- HB 2201 – requires the SBOE, by September 1, 2014, to approve at least 6 advanced technology and career-related courses that can satisfy the requirement for a fourth mathematics credit for high school graduation
 - one of these must be a course in personal financial literacy
 - Requires the SBOE to allow a student to comply with required third and fourth math and science credits by completing advanced CTE courses

Curriculum

- HB2662 – requires districts and charter schools to offer at least one-half elective credit in personal financial literacy to high school students
 - the course must include instruction in how to pay for college and other forms of postsecondary education and training

Curriculum

- HB 3662 – creates the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs program
- SB 172 – Requires the commissioner to include at least two “multidimensional” assessment tools for purposes of diagnosing kindergartners’ reading development and comprehension
- SB 441 – establishes the Texas Fast Start program
- SB 503 – creates the Expanded Learning Opportunities committee (ELC); authorizes its role and responsibilities

Curriculum

- SB 860 – expands program for districts, junior colleges and technical institutes to partner to provide high school dropout recovery
- SB 1406 – requires the SBOE to conduct a review and adoption process for instructional lessons developed as part of a curriculum management system created by one or more Regional Education Service Centers (ESC)
- SB 1474 – sets guidelines for the adoption of major curriculum initiatives by a school district
- SB 1590 - requires that personal financial literacy training include lessons on the use of insurance as a means of protecting against financial risk

Graduation Plans

House Bill 5:

- Creates a foundation plan of 22 credits which includes:
4 ELAR, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies,
2 Foreign language, 1 Fine art, 1 PE, and 5 electives
- allows students to earn an additional endorsement in one of five areas: STEM, Business and Industry, Public Services, Arts and Humanities, and Multi-Disciplinary studies
- each endorsement requires a student to earn a total of 26 credits which includes an additional flexible math credit, flexible science credit, and two additional electives

Graduation Plans

House Bill 5:

- All students must select an endorsement ,but may opt for only completing the foundation plan after grade 10, with parental consent
- All students must have a personal graduation plan developed with their parents and local educators that promotes college and workforce readiness
- Encourages districts to partner with community colleges and industry to develop rigorous courses that address workforce needs, provide technical training and count towards graduation

Graduation Plans

House Bill 5:

- directs districts to partner with higher education to provide developmental education courses the senior year, in Math and English, for college-bound students not demonstrating college readiness at the end of grade 11
- maintains distinguished level diploma. To earn a distinguished diploma, student must complete the requirements of the foundation program, an endorsement, and earn an Algebra II credit

Graduation Plans

House Bill 5:

- students completing the distinguished program are eligible for college admission under the top 10% automatic admissions provision
- all high school graduates are eligible to apply for admission to Texas' public four-year universities
- all high school graduates are eligible to receive a Texas grant
- current ninth and tenth grade students may graduate under the new structure

Assessment

House Bill 5:

- reduces the number of required End-Of-Course (EOC) assessments from fifteen to five
- allows students to meet their graduation assessment requirement by passing ELAR I, ELAR II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History
- ELA tests are combined into one assessment instead of separate reading and writing tests
- eliminates the 15% rule and cumulative score requirements

Assessment

House Bill 5:

- requires STAAR exams to be released to the public (Transparency)
- satisfactory performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams, SAT exams and ACT exams can satisfy graduation requirements
- allows districts at their discretion to administer English III and Algebra II assessments for diagnostic purposes only
- allows current ninth and tenth grade students the benefits of the new assessment program

Accountability

House Bill 5:

- requires at least three additional indicators of academic performance, including but not limited to:
 - 1) percentage of students graduating with endorsements or distinguished level of performance,
 - 2) number of students earning college credit, and
 - 3) number of students earning workforce certificates

Accountability

House Bill 5:

- establishes a three category rating system that evaluates schools on academic performance, financial performance and community and student engagement
- directs the agency and districts to release all three ratings at the same time to provide a clearer understanding of overall school performance
- allows local communities to engage in the accountability process by requiring districts to set goals and evaluate performance locally in addition to state ratings

Accountability

- HB 525 - Requires TEA to collect data in Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) about enrollment of “military-connected” students at the beginning and end of each school year

Accountability

House Bill 866:

If provisions of HB 866 conflict with federal law, the Commissioner is directed to seek a waiver from US Department of Education (USDE). If such a waiver is granted or determined to be unnecessary by USDE, following notice in the Texas Register and no later than September 1, 2015, the structure of the state assessment program in grades 3 – 8 would change as follows:

Accountability

House Bill 866:

- Reading and Math will be tested in grades 3, 5, and 8
- Writing will be tested in grades 4 and 7
- Science will be tested in grades 5 and 8
- Social Studies will be tested in grade 8
- above-grade level testing will continue for students taught above grade level

Accountability

House Bill 866:

- Spanish version tests are to be available for English Language Learners (ELL) in grades 3, 4, and 5
- modified versions are to be available for students with disabilities for whom regular assessments are not valid
- a new scoring concept is introduced, called the Minimum Satisfactory Adjusted Score (MSAS)

Accountability

- SB 306 – students in residential treatment facilities (RTF) are not considered to be students of the district or open-enrollment charter school in which the facility is located for accountability or reporting purposes
- SB 377 – requires an ELL student to be enrolled for at least 60 consecutive days during a year, for that year to be considered 1 year for purposes of determining participation or exemption from state assessments
- SB 1538 – defines dropout recovery schools and accountability procedures for those type schools

Governance

- HB 628 – provides that school board trustees have an inherent right of access to district information, documents and records
- HB 674 – Requires municipalities to give notice to school districts of any proposed zone changes that would affect residential areas
- HB 2016 – Covers school district consolidation; a petition for detachment and annexation may not be considered by a district without the consent of the other boards in the consolidation arrangement prior to consolidation

Governance

- SB 122 – Adds school board members to the list of officials who can be removed from office by a district judge for incompetency, official misconduct, or alcohol intoxication, on or off duty
- SB 123 – Changes current law that requires the commissioner to authorize a special accreditation investigation (in certain circumstances) to make the investigation authority permissive
- SB 124 – Clarifies current law that makes tampering with governmental records a 3rd degree felony to specifically include school data reported to TEA through PEIMS

School District Ops

- HB 308 – allows districts to educate students about traditional winter celebrations, greetings, displays
- HB 483 – prohibits a school district from paying an employee or former employee more than the amount owed in the contract, unless a public hearing is held
- HB 697 – expands the law that exempts certain food and drink products from the sales tax to include booster clubs and other school organizations
- HB 1501 – Requires schools to observe a minute of silence on September 11, if it falls on a regular school day

School District Ops

- HB 1781 – Prohibits the State Department of Agriculture from imposing a sanction on a school district, under certain conditions, for the sale of Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV).

Students

- HB 455 – Provides an excused absence for a student's doctor appointment for the student's child
- HB 742 – Creates grants for districts with high % of Educationally disadvantaged students to provide summer instruction
- HB 2058 – requires SBOE rule to allow students over age 17 to take high school equivalency exams, including the option to take the exams online
- HB 2137 – Allows students who live in a district, but are not enrolled in the public schools, to enroll in a district summer course on the same basis as a district student

Students

- HB 2549 – the vertical teams, that included representatives of both public and higher education, and created the college readiness standards, are tasked with periodically reviewing and revising those standards for approval of the commissioners of public and higher education

Students

- HB 2694 / SB 1365 – Requires school boards to approve for each subject at least four exams that satisfy SBOE guidelines for earning credit by exam; the exams must include AP exams and CLEP exams
 - Revises the performance level at which elementary and middle/high school students receive credit by exam from 90 to 80 percent
 - Specifies that the student is not required to take an end-of-course exam for that subject

Students

- SB 63 – provides that a child can consent to the child's own immunization if the child is pregnant or the parent of a child and has custody, and if the CDCP recommends the initial dose of the immunization before seven years of age
- SB 260 – Requires a district, under certain conditions, to excuse a student whose parent/step-parent is an active duty member of the military and has been called to duty
- SB 376 – provides that a campus participating in the national school breakfast program, in which 80 percent or more of students qualify for a free or reduced-price breakfast, must offer a free breakfast to all students

Students

- SB 435 – Continues a law providing that districts are not required to pay student tuition for college credit programs
- SB 453 – Allows districts to charge tuition to a student who is required, as a condition of holding the appropriate student visa, to pay school tuition
- SB 553 – allows early voting clerks to appoint student early voting clerks, who are entitled to the same compensation as other early voting clerks
- SB 1557 – Requires the commissioner to collaborate with TWC and the THECB on a strategic plan to enhance private industry participation in the early college education program

Parents

- HB 480 – Allows state employees to take up to 8 hours of sick leave per year to attend their child's activities

Parents

• House Bill 753:

as part of federally required notice to parents about Supplemental Education Services (SES)

- requires school districts to furnish information from TEA that identifies research-based characteristics of SES that have demonstrated to be more likely to foster improved student performance
- the notice must include information about the minimum number of hours of tutoring necessary for improved performance
- the agency must sort SES providers according to the provider's level of effectiveness in improving student performance in each area served

Special Populations

- HB 590 – addresses determining a child's eligibility for special education services based on a visual impairment
- HB 617 – Requires the district to designate at least one employee to serve as the designee on transition and employment services for special education students
- HB 1264 – requires districts to report in PEIMS the number of enrolled students identified as having dyslexia

Special Populations

- SB 39 – concerns the statewide plan for education of children with visual impairments
- SB 542 – Requires TEA to provide information to parents about Individualized Education Plan (IEP) facilitation as a means of resolving disputes between a school district and a parent of a student with a disability
- SB 709 – Provides that a person in a special education due process hearing can be represented by either a licensed attorney or a person who has special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of children with disabilities and satisfies other qualifications

Special Populations

- SB 816 – Moves the date by which a report of an initial evaluation of a student for special education services must be completed, from the current 60th calendar day, to the 45th school day
- SB 832 – Provides that charter schools must comply with the law requiring school districts to appoint a liaison officer to help with enrollment of students in the conservatorship of the state
- SB 833 – directs TEA to collect data through the PEIMS system concerning the educational outcomes of foster care students

Special Populations

- SB 906 – requires developmentally appropriate assessment of special education students
- SB 914 – Provides that an ARD committee can determine that a behavior improvement/behavior intervention plan is appropriate for a student for whom the committee has developed an IEP
- SB 1404 – applies to students in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services

Teachers & Personnel

- HCR 68 – designates the first full week of May as Texas Teacher Appreciation Week for the next 10 years
- HB 642 – revises teacher continuing education requirements
- HB 1016 – Ensures that district peace officers are provided legal counsel without cost to defend certain suits
- HB 1751- Creates the “Educator Excellence Innovation Program” providing Grants funds

Teachers & Personnel

- HB 1752 – Creates the Texas Teacher Residency Program at public institutions of higher learning
- HB 2012 – Legislation regarding studies and surveys on teacher salaries and working conditions

Teachers & Personnel

- HB 2318 – Requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to require educator prep programs to provide candidates with information concerning required skills and responsibilities, expectations for student performance, current teacher supply and demand, and the framework for teacher and principal appraisal
 - Requires that the satisfactory performance on the generalists certification exam as determined by the commissioner must require satisfactory performance in each core subject covered

Teachers & Personnel

- HB 2607 – Requires district grievance policies must allow an attorney to represent an employee in a grievance proceeding through a telephone conference call, provided the district has the necessary equipment
- HB 2952 – mandates that the Commissioner of Education must issue a decision on an appeal against a school district not later than 240 days after the date the appeal is filed
- HB 2961 – district trustees are to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of an employee's SSN as an employee identifier, other than for tax purposes

Teachers & Personnel

- HB 3573 – Sets out the requirements for a person to obtain a teaching certificate for Health Science Technology Education
- SB 460 – requires that minimum academic qualifications for a teaching certificate requiring a bachelor's degree must include instruction in detection of students with mental or emotional disorders
- SB 1720 – authorizes a student loan repayment program for graduates who agree to teach Math/Science at least four hours per day for four years, in districts that receive Title I funding, followed by four years at any public school

Safety & Health

- HB 347 – adds to current law on limits of use of wireless devices in school zones
- HB 1174 – increases the fine for passing a stopped school bus from \$200 to \$500, 2nd offense within five years can be fined between \$1000 to \$2000
- HB 2483 – Adds oral diseases and oral health education to current law and health programs required
- SB 831 – expands current efforts regarding mental health intervention and suicide intervention to also include programs regarding the promotion of mental health, as well as substance abuse prevention and intervention

Safety & Health

- SB 939 – Ensures that charter school employees are required to report child abuse or neglect

Discipline

- HB 1952 – Requires principals or other administrators who oversee student discipline to, at least once every three years, attend professional development training regarding school discipline laws
- SB 1541 – Requires districts to includes provisions regarding actions that would get a student removed from a school bus in the student code of conduct

Teacher Retirement System

Senate Bill 1458:

- is the omnibus TRS bill that makes the pension fund actuarially sound within the 31-year funding period
- ensures the continuation of a defined benefit pension system and provides a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for some retirees
- all current TRS members that are vested (have 5 years of service credit by Aug 31, 2014) are not impacted by changes in the retirement calculation

Teacher Retirement System

Senate Bill 1458:

Benefit Changes:

- Minimum retirement age of 62 for new hires and non-vested members
- 5% per year early retirement reduction factor for all new hires and non-vested members (as of August 31, 2014)
- 3% COLA increase for certain retirees

Teacher Retirement System

Senate Bill 1458:

Contribution rate changes:

- State rate increases from 6.4% to 6.8%
- employee contribution rate increases from current 6.4% to 7.7%, 2014 – 6.4%, 2015 – 6.7%, 2016 – 7.2%, and 2017 – 7.7%
- Creates a new school district rate set at 1.5% of minimum salary for any TRS participating employee for whom the district is not already paying Social Security

Teacher Retirement System

Senate Bill 1458:

Contribution rate changes:

- All three contribution rates; the state's, the employee's and the district's are linked together to ensure future rate decreases (or increases) are shared by all contributors

Teacher Retirement System

Senate Bill 1458:

TRS-Care:

- minimum age of 62 to qualify for TRS- ActiveCare II or III
- grandfather clause: as of August 31, 2014 employee must meet a rule of 70 or have 25 years of service

Charter Schools

Senate Bill 2:

- allows the number of charters for open-enrollment charter schools to incrementally increase to 305 by September 1, 2019
- requires the board of trustees of a school district that intends to sell, lease, or allow use of an unused or underused district facility to give an open-enrollment charter school the opportunity to make an offer first before offering it to any other entity

Charter Schools

Senate Bill 2:

- authorizes the commissioner of education to revoke a charter for failing to meet academic and financial standards
- allows a board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a home-rule district to grant a district charter to a campus that has received the lowest performance rating
- authorizes the granting of a charter for schools primarily serving students with disabilities

Charter Schools

Senate Bill 2:

- provides that a charter can be renewed for a ten year period
- requires that a majority of the members of the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school be qualified voters
- requires principal and teachers of an open-enrollment charter school to hold a baccalaureate degree
- requires the salary of the superintendent, educational leader, or CEO to be posted on the school's website

Charter Schools

Senate Bill 2:

- requires students on each campus to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags

Charter Schools

- HB 647 – clarifies that an open-enrollment charter school can employ a person if that person could be employed in a traditional public school
- HB 773 – requires students in open-enrollment charter schools to recite the pledges of allegiance of the US and Texas flags
- HB 855 – Allows charter schools to refund or refinance bonds guaranteed by the permanent school fund

School Marshals

House Bill 1009:

Creates a new category of law enforcement officer who is designated as a school marshal

- allows the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to appoint not more than one school marshal per 400 students in average daily attendance per campus
- provides that an applicant for a school marshal must be an employee of the school district or open-enrollment charter school

School Marshals

House Bill 1009:

- allows a school marshal to carry or possess a handgun on the physical premises of a school specified by the board of trustees or governing body in a manner provided by written regulations
- Prohibits a school marshal from issuing a traffic citation
- The Commissioner on Law Enforcement Standards and Education will operate a training program of 80 hours of instruction available to any school employee who holds a concealed handgun license (CHL). Renewed every 2 years.

Other Bills

- HB 1122 – authorizes a 10-year pilot program for a few very large districts; districts may develop and implement a voluntary 3-year high school diploma program for students
 - partnerships must be established with public junior colleges, technical institutes, etc., to support prompt student enrollment in certificate/associate degree programs following high school graduation

Other Bills

- HB 1675 – provides that the UIL will be subject to sunset review during the 2015 legislative session, but is not subject to being abolished
 - extends the sunset date for TEA from 2013 to 2015
 - moves the sunset date for regional Education Service Centers (ESC) from 2015 to 2019
- HB 1775 – Provides guidelines for University Interscholastic League (UIL) authority over sports officials who were not previously required to register with the UIL.

Other Bills

- HB 2103 – Provides that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has primary responsibility for the state's education research centers
- SB 715 – Changes references to “counselor, high school counselor, and guidance counselor” throughout the Education Code to “school counselor”

Questions?

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