

Legislative Update

88th Session of the Texas Legislature



Texas System of Education Service Centers

Education Related Bill Categories



Safety - School Safety and Security & Student Health (28 bills)



Learning - Assessment, Accountability & Instruction (18 bills)



Governance - District and Charter School Governance & Open Government (13 bills)



Money - School Finance & Property Tax (27 bills)



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School Safety and Security & Student Health

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88th Texas Legislature, Second Special Session – Tax Relief



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School Safety & Security, Student Health



HB 3: Safety & Security Requirements and Funding

Representatives Burrows; King, Tracy; Moody; King, Ken; Bonnen



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Chapters 7, 8, 12, 22, 25, 37, 45, 48; Local Government Code Chapter 85

- Commissioner must adopt/amend facility safety standards with regular reviews by Texas School Safety Center (at least once every 5 years).
- Regional Education Service Centers will serve as a school safety resource.
- Each **district employee** who regularly interacts with students enrolled at the district **must complete an evidence-based mental health training program**.
- A copy of the **child's disciplinary record and any threat assessment must be provided to the public school** when a student is enrolled/transferred and previously attended a Texas public school.
- Adds requirements relating to employment/contracting for security personnel; Expands training requirements for those employees and contractors.
- Boards must ensure at least **1 armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus beginning with the 2023-24 school year**; Provides requirements for individuals in that role.
- **Expands requirements for development and implementation of a multi-hazard emergency operations plan**. New audit procedures are to be developed by the Texas School Safety Center in coordination with the Commissioner.



Action Items

- Update policies related to safety standards and the multi-hazard emergency operations plan.
- Determine security staffing needs.
- Update multi-hazard emergency operations plan.
- Begin developing and implementing staff safety and mental health training plans.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- All school staff, students, parents and school visitors

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 18: Electronic devices provided to students by a public school

Representatives Slawson; Patterson; González, M; Burrows; Darby



Analysis – Amends Business and Commerce Code by adding Chapter 509

- Adds requirements for Digital Service Providers (DSPs) to provide additional levels of protections for known minor aged users related to collection and use of personal information.
- Digital service providers must implement strategies to prevent known minors' access and exposure to harmful material, including but not limited to creating and maintaining a list of harmful material, and using filtering technology and protocols.
- Digital service providers must create and provide to a verified parent, parental tools to allow the parent to supervise their children's use of a digital service.
- Prevents advertisers on the digital service provider's digital service from targeting a known minor with advertisements that facilitate, promote, or offer a product, service, or activity that is unlawful for a minor.
- Adds specific requirements for digital devices transferred for student use to have installed filters, barring pornography and other harmful content.
- The agency must adopt standards for permissible electronic devices and software applications used by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.



Action Items

- Update policies related to digital content and electronic devices.
- Update employee and student handbooks.
- Train all school staff and volunteers.
- Provide information to parents and students.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Technology staff
- All school staff and volunteers
- Students and parents

Effective Date: Article 3 – Immediately; Remaining provisions take effect September 1, 2023



HB 63: Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting

Representatives Swanson; Noble; Hull; Oliverson; Klick



Analysis – Amends Family Code § 261.104

- Adds specificity to reporting requirements to Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPF) related to suspected child abuse or neglect.
- **Prevents DFPF from accepting anonymous reports** but continues to allow state and local law enforcement to accept anonymous reports.
- DFPF must record reports made by phone and notify the caller of the recording and the consequences of false reporting.
- Individuals making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect must provide the name and address of the child, name and address of the individual responsible for care of the child, facts associated with the suspected abuse/neglect, source of the information, name and address of individual making the report, and any other pertinent information.
- **Provides for confidentiality in reporting but not anonymity.**
- Requires certain information to be provided to the individual(s) under investigation.



Action Items

- Update policies related to child abuse and neglect reporting.
- Update employee handbooks and guidelines.
- Train all school staff and volunteers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- All school staff and volunteers

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 114: Marijuana and E-Cigarettes on or Near Campuses

Representative Thompson, Ed



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 37.006

- Adds specificity related to placement of a student in a disciplinary alternative education program for offenses associated with the possession, use, sale, giving or delivery to another person of marijuana or e-cigarettes.
- Adds e-cigarette use to the list of offenses for which a program of educational and support services may be provided to a student and the student's parents for students placed in a disciplinary alternative placement program (DAEP).
- Provides guidance for moving students between in-school suspension and disciplinary alternative education programs depending on availability of space in the DAEP and the type of offense (violent verses non-violent).



Action Items

- Update policies related to placement of students in alternative education programs and in-school suspension
- Update student code of conduct and student handbook
- Inform students and all staff.
- Provide awareness communication to parents.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students and school staff involved in disciplinary placements

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 473: Parental Rights Regarding Threat Assessments

Representative Hull



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 37.115

- **Notify the parent/guardian** when threat assessment team is conducting a threat assessment of their child.
- Allows the parent/guardian to **participate in the threat assessment process** for their child and to provide information to the team.
- Threat assessment team must **present findings and conclusions to the parent/guardian** upon completion of the threat assessment process.



Action Items

- Update policies related to threat assessments of students.
- Update threat assessment team procedures.
- Provide training to threat assessment team leaders.
- Notify parents when threat assessment is being conducted on their child.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents, and threat assessment team members

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 567: Discrimination Based on Hair Texture or Hairstyle

Representatives Bowers; Rose; Reynolds; Sherman, Sr.; Buckley



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Subchapter Z, § 25 and 51; Labor Code, § 21; Property Code, § 301

- **Prevents a student dress or grooming policy** adopted by a school district, including a student dress or grooming policy for any extracurricular activity, from **discriminating against a hair texture or protective hairstyle (braids, locks, and twists) commonly or historically associated with race.**
- Identical requirements were added to the Texas Education Code relating to higher education, Labor Code relating to employment, and Property Code relating to housing.
- HB 567 does not address requirements for hair length.



Action Items

- Update student and employee dress codes in board policy and handbooks.
- Inform all school staff.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents and school staff

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1002: Public School Concussion Oversight Team

Representatives Price; Buckley; Hinojosa; Allison; King, Ken



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 38.154

- Allows schools to **include a licensed chiropractor and/or physical therapist as a member of the district or charter school concussion oversight team**, provided that the person meets the additional training requirements.
- Adds **licensed physical therapists** to the list of individuals approved to immediately remove a student from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition if the person believes the student might have sustained a concussion during the practice or competition.



Action Items

- Update student athletic handbook.
- Provide updated information to coaches, athletic trainers, student athletes and parents.
- Ensure a process is in place to confirm the credentials of concussion oversight team members.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Student athletes, athletic trainers, coaches, athletic directors, parents and school administrators

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 1297: Student Vision Screening

Representative Dutton



Analysis – Amends Health and Safety Code, § 36.003

- Allows use of an **electronic eye chart as a substitute for a printed eye chart**, when vision screening students.
- Provides a definition of “electronic eye chart.”



Action Items

- Revise policy related to vision screening.
- Provide awareness training to school nurses and other staff assisting with vision screening.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts, Charter Schools & Private Schools:

- Employees involved with vision screening for students

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1760: Prosecution for Possession of Certain Weapons

Representative Hefner



Analysis – Amends Penal Code, § 46.03

- Clarifies **definition of “school premises”** regarding an offense related to possession of a firearm or other weapon.
- Revised definition includes any building, grounds, or vehicle owned by and under the control of the school or postsecondary educational institution but does not include any location where students may be present, resulting from a school sponsored event, activity or field trip.
- An exception occurs if the individual has written authorization from the school.



Action Items

- Revise policy related to possession of firearms/weapons.
- Provide awareness training and information to all school employees and parents.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts, Charter Schools & Private Schools

- Students, parents, school staff

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1905: Safety Training

Representatives Talarico; Morales, Eddie; Garcia



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Subchapter D, § 37

- Allows but does not require school districts to **make available school safety training courses**, including active shooter training courses, and other courses (as determined by the district’s School Safety and Security Committee) to employees of accredited private schools and childcare facilities. Districts may also provide training courses to organizations providing “out-of-school-time care” to children who reside in the district including:
 - Faith-based organizations,
 - before-school or after-school programs
 - Summer camps
 - Texas 4-H or other agricultural programs
 - Youth sports organizations.
- School districts are **not** allowed to charge organizations for the training.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and School District Safety and Security Committee.
- Decide on dedication of budget to provide safety training to additional stakeholders (optional).



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- School Safety and Security Committee and other child serving organizations within the district

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 2484: Safety of a Referee, Judge or other Official

Representatives Guillen; Thompson, Ed; Tepper; Noble



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 33.081

- Requires schools to **prohibit the attendance of any spectator** who engages in conduct **that intentionally causes bodily injury to a person serving as referee, judge, or other official** of an extracurricular athletic activity or competition as a result of the person's actions taken in performing their official duties.
- Bans on attendance at school sponsored events must be for a minimum of 1 year and may not exceed 5 years.
- Requires a school district or open-enrollment charter school that holds an extracurricular athletic activity or a University Interscholastic League (UIL) athletic competition on district or school property to **provide security personnel to ensure the safety of a referee, judge, or other official** of the activity or competition until the official departs district or school property, **if a participant or spectator engages in, or threatens violent conduct against the official, or the school reasonably suspects** that an incident may occur.
- Security personnel includes peace officers, school resource officers, school administrators, or other designated personnel.



Action Items

- Update policies and procedures related to safety at extracurricular activities.
- Inform student extracurricular participants, parents, coaches, sponsors and spectators.
- Train campus security personnel and administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents and other spectators, school administrators and security personnel

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2495: Athletic Trainers

Representative Price



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 38.158 and Occupations Code § 451

- Amends statutes regarding the **licensure of athletic trainers** to make them consistent with processes in place at Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR); Removes outdated language related to licensure qualifications and processes.
- **Athletic trainers must obtain continuing education regarding concussions**; No longer requires TDLR approval of such courses or providers.
- TDLR is no longer required to adopt an official seal or annually prepare a roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed athletic trainers.
- Updates **athletic trainer applicant credential and apprenticeship requirements**.



Action Items

- Inform athletic directors and trainers of change in statute.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Athletic trainers

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2512: Athletic Trainers

Representative Morrison



Analysis – Amends Occupations Code, § 451.001

- Updates and expands the **definitions of “athletic injury” and “athletic training.”**
- “Athletic injury” now includes any physical activity or exercise. Previously, the definition was specific to injuries occurring during organized sports-related exercise or activity.
- “Athletic training” now includes the scope of a person’s license, including but not limited to: Managing the risk of an injury, prevention, injury and illness prevention and assessment, providing immediate emergency care, providing therapeutic intervention and reconditioning and athletic injury or illness.



Action Items

- Update policy and student athletic handbook definitions.
- Update job descriptions for athletic trainers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Student athletes and athletic trainers

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3623: School Marshals

Representative Hefner



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 37.08131

- Allows public or private schools to enter a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with another public or private school under which a **school marshal appointed to a campus of one school may temporarily act as a school marshal at a campus of the other school** during an event occurring at the campus of either school at which **both schools are participating**.
- The MOU is required to comply with the Education Code requirements for written regulations for school marshals employed by public and private schools, as applicable.
- The MOU is also authorized to **satisfy the requirement for written regulations or written authorization relating to the prohibition of the possession of certain weapons** at a school or educational institution and exceptions to this prohibition in Penal Code. The MOU can also allow a school marshal to carry a firearm on the premises of the public or private primary or secondary school at which the event occurs.
- Other statutes address similar sharing arrangements regarding school guardians.

Effective Date: Immediately



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Update policies related to school marshals.
- Develop protocols for and train school marshals.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts, Charter Schools & Private Schools:

- Campus Administrators and school marshals



HB 3908: Fentanyl Abuse Prevention (Tucker's Law)

Representative Wilson



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 28.004, Adds § 29.9074 & § 38.040

- Requires School Health Advisory Committees (SHACs) to make **recommendations regarding appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction on the dangers of opioids**, including instruction on synthetic opioid/fentanyl addiction and abuse.
- School districts are required to annually provide **research-based instruction related to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness** to students in **grades 6-12**. The content of the instruction is to include suicide prevention, prevention of abuse and addiction to fentanyl, awareness of local community resources and health education that includes information about substance use and abuse. Training may be provided by a variety of public, private and religious entities.
- The Governor shall designate a week to be known as “Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week” in public schools.



Action Items

- Train SHAC leadership and members on statute change.
- Update policies related to SHAC and instruction on substance and drug abuse/prevention.
- Determine courses for the required instructional content.
- Inform parents, teachers, and counselors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- SHACs, teachers, counselors, and students

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 4375: CPR and AED Student Training

Representatives VanDeaver & Kuempel



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 7.026, § 28.0023, § 29.903

- Adds **references for automated external defibrillator (AED)** to existing statute regarding required training for students in grades 7-12 on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Current SBOE rules require all students in grades 7-12 receive CPR training at least once before they graduate from high school (may be offered in any course).
- **CPR instruction must now include** training in conventional CPR techniques **and the use of an AED.**
- Allows TEA to accept donations, including donations of equipment, for use in providing instruction in CPR and the use of an AED to students in the form of grants to schools.



Action Items

- Ensure required instruction in CPR also includes instruction in the use of AEDs.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Teachers or nurses providing or coordinating CPR/AED instruction, students

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 4906: School Peace Officers – Access to Electronic Comms

Representative Hefner



Analysis – Amends Code of Criminal Procedure, § 18B.001

- Revises the **definition of "authorized peace officer."**
- The revised definition is to include a peace officer commissioned for secondary and post-secondary educational institutions and adds additional authority under designation of authorized peace officer.
- Revision allows school district or university police officers to apply for or be issued a **search warrant for the collection of certain electronic evidence**, including evidence relating to social media accounts, direct messaging, and text records.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Provide information and training to school district peace officers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Commissioned peace officers, students

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 29: Prohibited Gov't Enforcement of COVID-19 Mandates

Senator Birdwell



Analysis – Amends Health and Safety Code by adding, § 81B

- **Prohibits** the state, a local government entity, an open-enrollment charter school, or an agency of the state or such a local government entity **from implementing, ordering, or otherwise imposing any of the following mandates to prevent the spread of COVID-19.**
 - Requiring a person to wear a mask or other face covering;
 - Requiring a person to be vaccinated against COVID-19, to the extent that the prohibition does not conflict with the final rule adopted by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and published at 86 Fed. Reg. 61555 (November 5, 2021); or
 - Requiring the closure of a private business, public or private school, or open-enrollment charter school. The bill defines "local government entity" by reference as a county, incorporated city, independent school district, public junior college district, emergency services district, other special district, joint board, or other entity defined as a political subdivision under state law that maintains the capability to provide mutual aid.
- Provides certain exceptions to bans on mandated face coverings for state supported living centers, jails and prisons, and hospitals.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees, all school staff, parents and students.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- All school staff, students, and parents

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 37: Criminal Offense of Hazing

Senator Zafferini



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 37.152 & § 37.155

- A person **commits an offense** if the person has **firsthand knowledge** of the **planning of a specific hazing incident** involving a student in an educational institution or has **firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred**, and knowingly **fails to report** that knowledge to one of certain persons, including a peace officer or a law enforcement agency.
- Hazing **reports no longer need to be in writing**.
- Any person, including an entity organized to support an organization, who voluntarily reports a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to one of certain persons, including a peace officer or a law enforcement agency, is immune from civil or criminal liability, assuming no actual involvement.



Action Items

- Update Student Code of Conduct.
- Inform students, all school staff and sponsors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, all school staff and sponsors

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 133: Prohibiting Physical Restraint, Chemical Irritants or Tasers

Senator West



Analysis – Amends Education Code, by adding § 37.0021 (j)

- **Prohibits** a peace officer performing law enforcement duties or school security personnel performing security-related duties on school property or at a school-sponsored/school-related activity, from **restraining or using a chemical irritant spray or Taser on a student enrolled in 5th grade or below**, unless the student poses a serious risk of harm to the student or another person.
- The Commissioner is required to adopt procedures for the use of restraint and time-out by a school district employee, volunteer, or an independent contractor of a district, in the case of a student with a disability receiving special education services.



Action Items

- Update Student Code of Conduct.
- Train law enforcement and any employees assigned security related duties.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students in grades pre-k-5 and school security personnel

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 294: Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors on School Campuses

Senator Johnson



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 38.207, § 38.208 and adds § 38.2091

- The State Health Commissioner must establish an advisory committee to examine and review the administration of medication for respiratory distress to a person experiencing respiratory distress on school campuses.
- Authorizes school districts, open-enrollment charter schools and private schools to **adopt policy regarding the maintenance, administration and disposal of medication for respiratory distress**. Employees other than a school nurse can now have approved authorization.
- If approved, **policy may allow authorized and trained school personnel and/or volunteers to administer medication for respiratory distress** to a person experiencing respiratory distress on a school campus, or at a school activity; Deletes existing text authorizing a school nurse to administer the prescription asthma medicine only at a school campus and only if provided written notification from a parent or guardian; Requires a minimum of 1 trained individual for each campus; Provides for secure storage of medication.
- Requires **specific training to gain authorization** to administer medication for respiratory distress.
- Requires extensive notification and reporting after administration of medication for respiratory distress.



Action Items

- Board of trustees needs to consider policy adoption.
- Inform parents, students, and all staff if new policy is adopted.
- Train school staff as appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Authorized nurses, other school employees and volunteers, students

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 629: Opioid Antagonists on Public / Private School Campuses

Senator Menéndez



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 38, E-1, and amends Government Code, § 403.505

- Requires school districts and allows charter schools and private schools to adopt and implement a **policy regarding the maintenance, administration and disposal of opioid antagonists at each campus** in the district that serves students in grades 6-12 and may adopt and implement such a policy at each campus in the district, including campuses serving students in a grade level below grade 6.
- Authorized and trained school personnel and volunteers **may administer an opioid antagonist** to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose
- Requires a **minimum of 1 trained employee or volunteer** to be available **on each campus** during regular school hours.
- Policy is required to address required personnel and school volunteer training, secure storage of opioid antagonists, number of available doses at each campus, and specific reporting requirements associated with administering opioid antagonists.
- Requires the executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, to adopt rules regarding all aspects of opioid antagonist administration program.

Effective Date: Immediately



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Board must adopt a policy regarding use of opioid antagonists.
- Inform all school staff and parents.
- Develop training plan and train select staff.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Select school staff and volunteers



SB 763: Allowing Chaplains to Serve as Counselors

Senator Middleton



Analysis - Amends Education Code by adding, Subtitle D, Title 2, § 23, and amending § 48.115

- A school district or open-enrollment charter school **may employ or accept as a volunteer, a chaplain** to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the board of trustees of the district or the governing body of the school. A chaplain employed or volunteering under this chapter is not required to be certified by the State Board for Educator Certification.
- Chaplains and the services they provide can be **funded with the school safety allotment** to improve school safety and security.
- Requires each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to take a record vote, no later than 6 months after the effective date of this Act, on whether to adopt a policy authorizing a campus of the district or school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain under Chapter 23, Education Code, as added by this bill.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and have board consider policy.
- Inform staff, HR, students and parents as appropriate.
- Update emergency management plans as appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- HR and principals

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 838: Silent Panic Alert Technology for Classrooms

Senator Creighton



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 37.117

- School districts and open-enrollment charter schools **must provide each classroom in the district or school with silent panic alert technology** that allows for immediate contact with district or school emergency services and emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments.
- Silent panic alert technology provided by a school district or open-enrollment charter school under this section **does not satisfy** the requirement under Section 37.108(a)(2), for a multi-hazard emergency operations plan to ensure certain employees have classroom access to a telephone or another electronic communication device.
- **This Act applies beginning with the 2025–2026 school year.**



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Work with technology staff to determine infrastructure needs, develop purchase and implementation plan.
- Communicate with local and regional law enforcement.
- Train all school staff.
- Inform parents and students.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Technology staff, teachers and students

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 999: Providers of Active Shooter Training

Senator West



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 37.0812 Subsection C

- A school district contracting for the provision of active shooter response training must **ensure the training provider is certified** under Section 1701.2515, Occupations Code, to provide the training.
- An individual or a legal entity **may not provide active shooter training to peace officers, students, and/or employees** at a public primary or secondary school or an institution of higher education unless the legal entity and the individual providing the instruction are **certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)**.
- Requires TCOLE to establish a certification program, no later than September 1, 2024.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Ensure entities and their trainers are certified through TCOLE.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- School administrators responsible for scheduling active shooter training

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 1506: Seizure Disorder Management and Treatment

Senator Hughes



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 38.032

- A student treatment seizure management and treatment plan must be on a **standardized form adopted by TEA and posted on their website.**
- The form must include fields for specific information from an affected student's parent/guardian and their physician.
- Required information includes emergency contacts, medical history, description of seizures, potential triggers/warning signs, student management, emergency care, medications, etc.
- The deadline for TEA to develop and make the form available is December 1, 2023.
- Applies to seizure management and treatment plans submitted on or after January 1, 2024.
- **Parents/guardians** seeking care and treatment for their child's seizure disorder for seizures experienced at school or school related events are **required to submit the approved form.**



Action Items

- Inform school nurses of change in law.
- Communicate with parents regarding updated seizure management plans.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- School nurses and parents/guardians of students seeking care for their child's seizure disorder

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 1720: Threat Assessment Reporting - Confidentiality

Senator Kolkhorst



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 37.115

- The threat assessment team (part of the threat assessment and safe and supportive school program) must provide a **district employee**, who reports a potential threat to a team, **with the option to elect for their identity to remain confidential and not subject to disclosure** under Chapter 552 (Public Information), Government Code, except as necessary for the team, the district, or law enforcement to investigate the potential threat.
- The **district must maintain a record** of the identity of a district employee who elects for confidentiality in their reporting.



Action Items

- Update policy and procedures related to the threat assessment team.
- Train threat assessment team on revised procedures.
- Inform all school staff.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Threat assessment teams and employees reporting potential safety threats

Effective Date: Immediately

Takes effect immediately but updated policies will likely not be ready by the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.



SB 2069: Posting of Signs Regarding Human Trafficking

Senator Bettencourt



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 37.086

- Makes minor changes to SB 1831, as passed by the 87th Texas Legislature.
- **Public schools only** are required to post warnings of increased penalties for crimes associated with human trafficking. This amends the original bill requirement for warnings to be posted by both public and private schools.
- Signs must be posted in a **conspicuous place reasonably likely to be viewed** by all employees and visitors. This amends language from the original bill which required signs to be viewable by all persons entering the premises.
- Requires TEA to work in consultation with the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force to adopt rules regarding wording for warning signs.



Action Items

- Inform facilities manager.
- Move and/or place signs, as appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Facilities department, employees and guests

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Assessment, Accountability and Instruction



HB 900: Public School Library Materials – “Reader Act”

Representatives Patterson; Buckley; Burrows; Shaheen; Longoria



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 33.021 and Adds Chapter 35

- The Texas State Library and Archives Commission, with approval by the State Board of Education, will adopt mandatory standards for school library collection development.
- Standards will be updated at least once every 5 years and must prohibit the possession, acquisition and purchase of harmful material, material rated as sexually explicit by the selling vendor, and/or material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable (Pico V. Board of Education, 457 U.S. 853, 1982).
- **Standards adherence is required for all library materials** available for use or display in school libraries, classroom libraries and online catalogs.
- Standards must be designed to recognize parental rights in granting a child's access to library materials, encourage transparency and encourage effective communication with parents.
- Provides safeguards to prevent the removal of certain library materials.
- Requires reviews and ratings of materials by vendors and provides specific criteria. **TEA must post lists of sexually explicit rated material and sales records of those materials to schools.**
- **Schools must gain parental consent** for use of certain library materials.
- Districts and charters must **conduct regular reviews of library materials.**



Action Items

- Update policies related to book adoption.
- Develop library review procedures based on new standards.
- Train librarians and teachers.
- Develop communication plan for parents and students.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents, school librarians, teachers, school administrators and school boards

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1225: Paper Administration of Assessment Instruments

Representatives Metcalf; Harris, Cody; Hefner; Dean; Shaheen



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding § 39.02342

- Allows districts and charters to **administer paper versions of assessment instruments** at the request of the student's parent, guardian or teacher in the respective subject.
- Sets timeline for request of September 15, for fall assessments and December 1, for spring assessments.
- Limits the number of students **administered tests in a paper format to 3% of enrollment**.
- The limitation does not apply to a student whose Admission, Review, and Dismissal committee determines that the administration of an assessment instrument in paper format is a necessary modification for the student.



Action Items

- Notify parents/guardians of option and request process.
- Train teachers and assessment staff.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students requiring/benefiting from modifications to testing environment

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 1416: Accelerated Learning Updates

Representatives Bell, Keith; Dutton; Buckley; VanDeaver; King, Ken



Analysis – Amends TEC § 28.0211, § 29.0881, §39.025

- Requires school districts to ensure curricular and instructional systems are aligned with TEKS and address deficiencies in prerequisite TEKS.
- **Removes requirement for “Accelerated Learning Committee.”**
- Accelerated instruction requirement **lowered from 30 to 15 hours** for certain students.
- **Increases number of students allowed in group instruction to 4 students** unless parent/guardian approve larger group.
- Districts are **not required to provide supplemental instruction in more than 2 subject areas per year.**
- **Provisions:** Parental opt-out, automated/computerized instruction, students who qualify for SPED, transportation.
- School **district waivers available** for districts meeting certain performance criteria.



Action Items

- Update policies related to accelerated learning.
- Inform students, parents, and teachers.
- Train staff as required and appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools

- Core content teachers, extra/co-curricular coaches & sponsors, students and parents

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 1605: Instructional Materials/Technology/TEKS

Representatives Buckley; Dutton; Bonnen; King, Ken; Bell, Keith



Analysis – Amends and Adds Multiple Education Code Sections

- Limits requirements for written teacher lesson plans.
- Expands teacher certification requirements to include open education resource instructional materials (OERIMs).
- Limits teacher liability when using only instructional materials approved and included on the list maintained by the State Board of Education.
- School districts must **make teaching materials and tests readily available for review** by parents and provide a **process for parents to request a formal review of instructional materials**.
- TEA must provide a website for assisting districts in selecting instructional materials. Publishers must provide a parent portal for access to all approved instructional materials.
- The Commissioner must develop a repository for OERIMs with access through the website and parent portal.
- Adds **requirements to processes for review and selection of instructional materials** by SBOE, TEA, school districts and Charter schools.
- **Alters instructional material purchasing from an allotment to a requisition system** through TEA and significantly expands Commissioner authority.

Effective Date: Immediately



Action Items

- Update policies related to instructional program and instructional materials.
- Develop procedures to allow parent access to materials.
- Inform parents and teachers.
- Train staff as required and appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Teachers, parents and district leadership



HB 1615: Availability of Pre-K Programs

Representatives Button; Murr; Talarico; Raney; Morales Shaw



Analysis – Amends Subchapter A, Labor Code, § 302

- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will establish and administer a pre-k partnership program to assist child-care providers who meet the definition of an “eligible private provider” under Section 29.171, Education Code. This program involves **TWC partnership with local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide the pre-k classes** required under Section 29.153, Education Code.
- Requires coordination with Texas Education Agency.
- Provides for a **professional development scholarship program** for current and prospective child-care workers.



Action Items

- Inform administrators and staff associated with district and charter school pre-k programs.
- Inform HR department of scholarship program.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Administrators responsible for pre-k programs

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 2209: Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership Program

Representative Lozano; Raymond



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Subchapter Z, by adding, § 29.912

- Establishes the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program to **incentivize and support multidistrict, cross-sector, rural college and career pathway partnerships** that expand opportunities for underserved students to succeed in school and life while promoting economic development in rural areas.
- Designed to enable an eligible school district that has fewer than 1,600 students in average daily attendance to **partner with at least 1 other school district located within 100 miles, to offer a broader array of college and career pathways.**
- Programs are required to align with regional labor market projections for high-wage, high-demand careers, and **be managed by an eligible coordinating entity.**
- **Relaxes dropout accountability** for participating students by extending time for graduation to up to 6 years.
- Provides for an **R-PEP allotment and outcomes bonus.**
- Caps program funding at \$5 million per year/\$10 million for the biennium.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and CTE administrators



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Rural School Districts – CTE Programs

Effective Date: Immediately and September 1, 2023, depending on the sub-section



HB 2575: Workforce Diploma Pilot Program

Representatives Button; González, Mary; Smith; Morales, Christina; Lopez, Janie



Analysis – Amends Labor Code, § 317.004 & 317.010

- Extends the expiration date of the Workforce Diploma Pilot Program from September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2027.
- Program is designed to successfully assist adult students in obtaining a high school diploma and developing technical career readiness skills and employability.
- Primary change to the law requires eligible program providers (Texas Workforce Commission certified) to **partner with entities authorized under the Education Code or other state law to grant a high school diploma.**



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and adult education and CTE administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Adult education and CTE programs

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3803: Parental Rights – Student Course or Grade Retention

Representatives Cunningham; Thimesch; DeAyala ; Allen



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 28.02124

- Allows a parent or guardian to **elect for a student to repeat any grade** (1-8) or course (courses for high school credit) in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year.
- Does not allow a parent or guardian to elect for a student to repeat a course under this subsection if the school district or open-enrollment charter school determines the student has met all the requirements for graduation.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Update policies related to retention.
- Update student handbook.
- Train counselors, registrars and other staff as appropriate.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents, campus administrators and counselors

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 3928: Dyslexia Evaluations and Services

Representatives Toth; Meyer; Dutton; Anderson; Burrows



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 28.02124

- Adds specific requirements for State Board of Education (SBOE) approval of program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders.
- If a district suspects or has reason to **suspect a student may have dyslexia**, including after evaluation, and the **student may be a child with a disability** under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), then additional requirements are initiated:
 - Parental notification of parent rights under IDEA and Section 504.
 - Compliance with all state and federal requirements including the dyslexia handbook, as adopted by the SBOE.
 - Students evaluated for dyslexia, or a related disorder must also be evaluated in any other areas in which the district suspects the student may have a disability.
 - The multidisciplinary team must include at least 1 member with specific knowledge regarding dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction.
 - Requires regular progress reports related to a student's dyslexia instruction.
 - Adds requirements for providers of dyslexia instruction.
 - Adds requirements for parental notification related to certain student disciplinary placements.
 - Requires new board policy associated with rules and SBOE handbook compliance.
 - Adds requirements for TEA regarding parental program input and monitoring school district compliance with all rules.

Effective Date: Immediately



Action Items

- Update policies and procedures related to dyslexia identification and testing.
- Train dyslexia and special education staff.
- Inform parents, school psychologist/diagnostician and special education and general education teachers



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students with dyslexia and other disorders, parents, dyslexia and special education/general education staff



HB 5195: Services to Students Detained in Juvenile Facilities

Representative Thompson, Senfronia



Analysis – Amends Family Code by adding, § 54.021

- A child who has been transferred for criminal prosecution and ordered to be detained in a juvenile facility pending criminal proceedings in adult court **must receive education, programming, and services consistent with minimum standards already in place** for children in a juvenile facility.
- Requires the facility administrator, or the administrator's designee, of a juvenile detention facility to **complete an initial educational needs assessment and develop a written plan for progress** on rehabilitation goals, no later than the 21st day after the date on which the child was detained.
- Provide on at least a quarterly basis, documentation on education programming and other services provided to the child, behavioral compliance or incidences, measurable progress on rehabilitation goals, and other pertinent information, as required.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

Juvenile Facilities:

- Students detained in juvenile facilities

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 1647: Dropout Recovery Education Programs

Senator Parker



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 29.081 and § 39.023

- Authorizes a school district or open-enrollment charter school to use a private or public community-based dropout recovery education program or education management organization to **provide alternative education programs for students at risk of dropping out of school**. Authorizes programs to be offered in person at a campus, remotely, or through a hybrid of in-person and remote instruction that leads to a high school diploma and prepares the student to enter the workforce.
- Adds specific requirements for in-person, campus-based dropout recovery programs, and adds additional requirements for remote or hybrid programs, including but not limited to requiring the provider to operate an in-person student engagement center at a suitable location for high school students, accreditation, and offer referrals for mental health services.
- Requires **specific reporting/internet posting requirements** for school districts and charters related to dropout recovery programs.
- Allows students who successfully complete an in-person or remote course offered through the program to be **included in the schools ADA for funding purposes**. Does not apply to students enrolled in a course.
- Includes student assessment requirements for entities operating dropout recovery programs.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Determine dropout recovery needs.
- Ensure dropout recovery programs meet new requirements.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Administrators responsible for dropout recovery and students at risk of dropping out of school

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 2032: Adult High School Charter Programs

Senator Creighton



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 12.251, 12.255, 12.256, 12.259, 12.262, 12.263, 12.264

- Authorizes the Commissioner to grant a charter under the adult high school charter school program to an eligible entity, to **provide an adult education program for individuals between 18 and 50 years of age**, who have not graduated from high school due to failure to complete the required curriculum or failure to perform satisfactorily on a required assessment.
- Adult high school charters are not applied to the limits on new charters granted in a given year or time period.
- Eligible entities include nonprofit entities; a school district; an entity currently granted a charter under Subchapter D; or a general academic teaching institution, public junior college, or public technical institute, and the entity, or a member of the entity's executive leadership, has a successful history of providing certain education services to persons meeting certain criteria.
- Includes specific requirements related to application process, timeline, approval process, etc.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Entities with an identified need to expand services to high school dropouts, individuals who have not completed high school

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 2124: Advanced Mathematics Courses in Middle Schools

Senator Creighton



Analysis – Amends Education Code, by adding § 28.029

- To increase the number of students who complete advanced mathematics courses in high school, each school district and open-enrollment charter school **is required to develop an advanced mathematics program for middle school students** designed to enable those **students to enroll in Algebra I in 8th grade.**
- Requires a school district or charter school to automatically enroll 6th grade students who performed in the top 40% on the 5th grade mathematics assessment instrument or a local measure which includes class ranking or other demonstrated mathematics proficiency, in an advanced mathematics course.
- Authorizes the parent or guardian of a student to opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics course.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and middle school administrators.
- Train math curriculum leadership.
- Develop and implement plan for development of an advanced mathematics program.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Middle school math department/teachers, middle school students and their parents

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 2139: Opportunity High School Diploma Program

Senator Parker



Analysis – Amends Education Code, by adding § 130, Subchapter O

- The purpose of the program is to provide an alternative means by which **adult students enrolled in a workforce education program at a public junior college are authorized to earn a high school diploma at the college through concurrent enrollment** in a competency-based education program that enables students to demonstrate knowledge substantially equivalent to the knowledge required to earn a high school diploma.
- Authorizes public junior colleges to submit applications to The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), together with one or more public junior colleges, general academic teaching institutions, public school districts, or nonprofit organizations with whom the proposed program will be offered. Limits the pilot program to no more than 5 junior colleges.
- Authorizes a public junior college participating in the program to award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in the alternative competency-based high school diploma program offered under the program if the student performs satisfactorily on assessment instruments prescribed by THECB rule.
- Requires THECB and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to jointly identify funding mechanisms.



Action Items

- No immediate action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- School Districts with an agreement with junior colleges and students seeking a competency-based high school diploma

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 2294: Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Senator Creighton



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 28.0253 and 56.221

- Expands the number of universities eligible to participate in the Texas First Early High School Completion Program which allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to **graduate early from high school**, as approved by the 87th Texas Legislature.
- Requires a school district or open-enrollment charter school to allow a student to graduate and receive a high school diploma, rather than authorizing a school district or open-enrollment charter school to issue a high school diploma based on demonstrated mastery of the established standards for the Texas First Early High School Graduation Program.



Action Items

- Review and update policies related to Texas First Early High School Completion Program.
- Inform school counselors and other administrators as appropriate.
- Inform students and parents of the Program and its' requirements.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students interested in completing high school early

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 2304: Regulation of Driver Training Courses

Senator LaMantia



Analysis – Amends Education Code, by adding § 29.0113 and 1001.10161

- School districts and open-enrollment charters **must provide information regarding the “Texas Driving with Disability Program”** to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and who receive special education services or who are covered by Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and their parents. Requires that the information be provided to each student who is 16 years of age or older and annually until the earlier of the student's graduation from high school or 21st birthday.
- Requires TEA to collaborate with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities to develop the information materials
- Requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR), by rule, to require that information relating to the program be included in the curriculum of each driver education and driving safety course by September 1, 2024.
- Makes changes to definitions of “classroom instruction” and “in-person driver education provider” to ensure in-person driver education providers can at least remain a hybrid program with in-person classroom instruction.

Effective Date: Immediately



Action Items

- Inform administrators responsible for special education and Section 504 of the change in law.
- Provide required communication to students and parents.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students with disabilities and/or students that qualify for Section 504, who seek to procure a driver’s license



Higher Education Bills (1 of 2)



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Various Sections

- **[HB 8](#)** - Relating to the administration, coordination, and support of public higher education, including the public junior college state finance program and an Advanced Career and Education (ACE) scholarship program for students enrolled in dual credit courses.
- **[HB 584](#)** - Relating to the development of a state information technology credential offered by public junior colleges to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.
- **[HB 2177](#)** – Relating to establishing a digital textbook and learning materials subscription pilot program.
- **[HB 2920](#)** - Relating to the distribution, posting, or provision of information regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities and to the confidentiality of certain information relating to persons assisted in accessing postsecondary education.
- **[HB 4005](#)** - Relating to the establishment of the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program for certain students enrolled in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs and to formula funding and dropped and repeated course restrictions for students enrolled in those degree programs at public institutions of higher education.

Effective Date: Varies



Action Items

- Inform high school counselors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students planning to attend institutions of higher education and high school counselors



Higher Education Bills (2 of 2)



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Various Sections

- [HB 4363](#) - Relating to the establishment of a scholarship program for aspiring classroom teachers.
- [SB 55](#) - Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding best practices for assisting students with autism spectrum disorder.
- [SB 459](#) – Relating to early registration for parenting students at public institutions of higher education.
- [SB 1055](#) - Relating to the creation of a new university in Nacogdoches, Texas, within the University of Texas System; abolishing Stephen F. Austin State University.
- [SB 2538](#) – Relating to limitations on automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions.



Action Items

- Inform high school counselors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students planning to attend institutions of higher education and high school counselors

Effective Date: Varies

District & Charter School Governance; Open Government



HB 699: Non-enrolled Students Participating in UIL

Representatives Frank & Cain



Analysis – Amends Education Code § 33.0832

- Adds clarification to HB 547, as passed by the 87th Texas Legislature in 2021.
- The University Interscholastic League (UIL) **must use the same student enrollment calculation formula** for a school that allows a non-enrolled student to participate in a league activity as the formula used to determine the student enrollment of a school that does not allow a non-enrolled student to participate in the league activity, when assigning classifications for competition purposes.



Action Items

- School District and Charter boards will need to decide if and under what circumstances non-enrolled students will be allowed to participate in and represent the public school in UIL events



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Athletic directors, UIL staff and district executive committees

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 1212: Student Absences for Observing Religious Holy Days

Representatives Jetton, Jacey; Bhojani; Allison; Lalani; Bernal



Analysis – Amends TEC § 25.087

- Prohibits school districts from requiring documentation from a clergy member or religious leader for the purposes of excusing a student absence related to overserving a religious holy day.
- Requires school districts to **accept a note from the student's parent or guardian verifying the purpose of the student's absence.**



Action Items

- Update student attendance guidelines.
- Inform staff responsible for attendance accounting.
- Inform parents.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Students, parents and staff responsible for attendance reporting and accounting

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 1707: Applicability of Certain Laws to Charter Schools

Representatives Klick; Leo-Wilson; Jetton, Jacey; Johnson, Jarvis



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 12.1058

- **Political subdivisions** (cities and counties, school district, utility districts, etc.) must **consider an open-enrollment charter school a school district** for purposes of zoning, project permitting, platting and re-platting processes, business licensing, franchises, utility services, signage, subdivision regulation, property development projects, the requirements for posting bonds or securities, contract requirements and land development standards, etc.
- Open-enrollment charter schools considered a school district under this section must comply with the same requirements imposed by the political subdivision on a campus of a school district.
- An open-enrollment charter school **does not have the power of eminent domain**.



Action Items

- Inform charter school operating boards.
- Inform political subdivisions, as applicable.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

Open Enrollment Charter Schools:

- Charter schools and the political subdivisions within which they reside

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2012: Display of National Motto

Representatives Oliverson; Metcalf; Longoria; Harris, Cody; Harrison



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 1.004

- Allows a classroom teacher at a public elementary or secondary school or a teacher or professor at an institution of higher education to display in a classroom a poster or framed copy of the national motto, “In God We Trust.”



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and teachers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Teachers and students

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2102: Charter School Opening and Expansion

Representative Goldman



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 12.101

- Increases the amount of time open-enrollment charter holders can provide **notice to TEA of the establishment of a new open-enrollment charter campus from 18 months, up to 36 months** prior to the anticipated opening of the campus.
- Increases the amount of time allowed for a charter holder to submit a request for an expansion amendment to TEA from 18 months, up to 36 months prior to the date the expansion will become effective.



Action Items

- Ensure charter holders are made aware of the change in statute.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

Charter Schools:

- Charter holders and governing boards

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3440: Required Internet Posting of Board Agendas

Representative Canales



Analysis – Amends Government Code, § 551.056

- School districts and economic development corporations, among other governmental bodies, **must post notice and the agenda of a board meeting on their website**, in addition to the other places at which a notice or an agenda of a meeting is required to be posted per Subchapter C (Notice of Meetings).
- In addition to the notice and agenda for the meeting, any supplemental written materials provided to the members of the governmental body or economic development corporation in advance of the meeting for use during the meeting, are to also be posted on their website.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees of the new requirements.
- Inform individuals responsible for posting meeting notices, to ensure they understand and adhere to new requirements.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Board of trustees

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3917: Resolving Complaint of Student Non-attendance

Representative Buckley



Analysis – Amends Code of Criminal Conduct, § 45.0531 & Add Texas Education Code, § 25.094

- A court is **required to dismiss a charge that alleges a parent/guardian committed an offense contributing to student non-attendance**, if the parent completes the terms of an agreement entered by the parent and the school district at which the parent’s child attends, within the time period required by the agreement.
- School districts are **not** required to offer any such program but **may elect to provide this alternative** rather than a traditional fine or other punitive measure.
- Authorizes TEA to make rules as necessary, standardized agreement forms available, and recommend programs and services that offer training. The training may include, but is not limited to, training in parenting, including parental responsibility, under Texas law regarding truancy.
- TEA may also require relevant programs, resources, and materials to be made available through regional educational service centers.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Superintendent and administrators responsible for student attendance need to determine if approach outlined is a viable option for their district.
- Revise procedures related to handling situations excessive student absences.
- Update student attendance guidelines.
- Train staff as appropriate on plan development and implementation.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Students, parents and staff responsible for enforcing attendance policies and procedures

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3991: Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day

Representatives Isaac; Flores; Frank; Buckley; Dutton



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code by adding, § 29.9073

- Designates the **first Friday in April as Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day in public schools**, to promote awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables and to encourage students to consume more fruits and vegetables during Texas Fruit and Vegetable Month.
- Requires that **Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day include appropriate instruction**, as determined by each school district.
- TEA may collaborate with other state agencies to promote Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees.
- Inform food service administrators and ensure school lunch calendars are updated appropriately.
- Inform elementary and secondary teachers and school librarians.
- Purchase an abundance of fruits and vegetables at the end of March.
- Make Pepto-Bismol available to all staff and students.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:,

- Students, teachers, librarians, food service workers and parents

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 943: Publication of Notices by Governmental Entities

Senator Kolkhorst



Analysis – Amends Government Code by adding, § 2051.054

- A newspaper that publishes a notice shall, at no additional cost to the governmental entity, **place the notice on one or more webpages on the newspaper’s website.**
- If the Texas Press Association (TPA) maintains a website as a statewide repository of notices, then the newspaper is required to also deliver the notice to the TPA for the association to publish on the association’s website at no charge to the governmental entity.
- Additional requirements for the TPA are included in the bill, assuming the TPA publishes and maintains a website serving as a repository of public notices.



Action Items

- No action required by the school district.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Individuals seeking access to public notices

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 1008: Establishing Residency For Public School Enrollment

Senator Flores



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 25.001 (c-2)

- When a person establishes residency by providing the school district a copy of a military order requiring a parent/guardian's transfer to a military installation in or adjacent to the district's attendance zone, they must provide the school district with **proof of residence in the district's attendance zone by the 90th day after the arrival date specified in the order.**
- Applies only to a student whose parent/guardian is an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces.
- Prior law required proof of residency within 10 days.



Action Items

- Inform school staff responsible for verifying student residency.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Students of active military parents/guardians

Effective Date: Immediately



SB 1045: Creation of 15th Court of Appeals

Senator Huffman



Analysis – Amends Government Code, § 22.201

- Creates the 15th Court of Appeals District, composed of all counties in Texas. The court is held in the City of Austin but may transact its business in any county in Texas as the court determines is necessary and convenient. The court consists of a chief justice and four justices. If the court is created, the initial vacancies of the justices must be filled by appointment.
- Establishes that the **15th Court of Appeals has exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction over the civil matters** brought by or against the state or a board, commission, department, office, or other agency in the executive branch of the state government, including a university system or institution of higher education, or by or against an officer or employee of the state or a board, commission, department, office, or other agency in the executive branch of the state government arising out of that officer's or employee's official conduct.
- Prohibits the Texas Supreme Court from transferring any case or proceeding properly filed in the 15th Court of Appeals to another court of appeals for the purpose of equalizing the dockets of the courts of appeals. SB 1045 does, however, transfer some of the responsibilities currently assigned to the 3rd court of appeals in Travis County over to the newly created 15th Court of Appeals.



Action Items

- No immediate action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

- School Districts & Charter Schools seeking appellate action against the state of Texas

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 1098: Parent Rights Regarding Child-Care Facilities

Senator Paxton



Analysis – Amends Human Resources Code, by adding § 42.04271

- A parent or guardian of a child at a child-care facility has the right to:
 - Enter and examine the child-care facility during the facility's hours of operation without advance notice;
 - File a complaint against the child-care facility;
 - Review the child-care facility's publicly accessible records;
 - Review the child-care facility's written records concerning the parent's/guardian's child;
 - Receive from the child-care facility the commission's inspection reports and information about how to access the child-care facility's compliance history online;
 - Have the child-care facility comply with a court order preventing another parent/guardian from visiting or removing the parent's/guardian's child;
 - Be provided the contact information for the division responsible for regulating the child-care facility.
 - Inspect any video recordings of an alleged incident of abuse or neglect involving the parent's or guardian's child, with certain exceptions;
 - Obtain a copy of the child-care facility's policies and procedures;
 - Review the facility's staff training records and in-house training curriculum



Action Items

- Update board policies and procedures related to open records and parental rights.
- Inform school and school contracted child-care staff.
- Inform parents of children attending school and school contracted child-care.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Child-care teachers and administrators, parents of children attending child-care, including those whose children may be in school-contracted child-care

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 1893: Restrictions on Social Media

Senator Birdwell



Analysis – Amends Government Code by adding § 620

- Requires a governmental entity, subject to Section 620.004, to **adopt a technology policy prohibiting the installation or use of a covered application** on any device owned or leased by the governmental entity and **requiring the removal of covered applications from those devices**.
- Requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS) to jointly develop a model policy for governmental entities to use in developing the policy.
- Covered applications include the social media service TikTok, or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited, or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited; or a social media application or service specified by proclamation of the Governor under Section 620.005



Action Items

- Update board policies and procedures related to technology applications and monitoring.
- Inform school technology staff, all staff, students and parents



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Any employee or student with access to a state-owned computer or other technology device capable of hosting social media applications

Effective Date: Immediately

Takes effect immediately but updated policies will most likely not be ready by the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.



Election Bills



Analysis – Amends Elections Code, Various Sections

- [HB 1217](#) – relating to the administration of and procedures relating to early voting by personal appearance.
- [HB 1631](#) - Relating to hours of service by an election watcher.
- [HB 1632](#) - Relating to standardized training for election officers.
- [SB 825](#) - Relating to the deadline for submitting certain recount petitions.
- [SB 1089](#) - Relating to repealing the ability to declare certain unopposed candidates for office as elected.
- [SB 1599](#) - Relating to ballots voted by mail.



Action Items

- No immediate action required for school boards.
- Any pertinent information will be covered in annual elections training for elections officers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- School district elections (board of trustee, VITRE, and bond elections) stakeholders

Effective Date: Varies



Bills Written Specific to a School District or Group of Districts



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Various Sections

- [HB 1263](#) - relating to the ability of a local authority to designate school crossing zones and school crosswalks at high school campuses located in certain municipalities. **Applies to Houston ISD only.**
- [HB 1825](#) - relating to the consumption, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages at certain performing arts facilities owned by certain school districts. **Applies Arlington ISD only.**
- [HB 2285](#) - relating to the authority of certain independent school districts to change the terms for members of the districts' board of trustees.
- [HB 4210](#) - relating to the appointment and terms of members of a board of trustees of a military reservation school district.
- [SB 2620](#) - relating to authorizing certain political subdivisions to change the date on which their general election for officers is held. **Applies to Montague County only.**



Action Items

- No immediate action required except for specified districts.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Houston ISD, Arlington and Montague Counties, districts located on military bases

Effective Date: Varies

School Finance & Property Tax



HB 1: General Appropriations

Representative Bonnen

Each legislative session, state agencies project the costs of fulfilling their functions and providing important services for the following 2-year budget period. This information, combined with the biennial estimate of revenues submitted to the Governor and the Legislature before the convening of each regular session, is a key component in the construction of the General Appropriations Act which serves as the statewide budget for the upcoming biennium.

	2024	2025
• ARTICLE I - General Government	\$ 4,963,519,895	\$ 2,754,461,650
• ARTICLE II - Health and Human Services	21,318,601,365	21,327,910,966
• ARTICLE III - Agencies of Education	30,316,838,055	28,914,182,498
• ARTICLE IV - The Judiciary	492,131,337	356,222,467
• ARTICLE V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice	9,619,070,230	8,595,872,057
• ARTICLE VI - Natural Resources	2,684,122,651	644,490,901
• ARTICLE VII - Business and Economic Development	757,027,876	394,797,530
• ARTICLE VIII - Regulatory	230,373,682	197,395,756
• ARTICLE IX - General Provisions	6,937,291,605	3,136,506,273
• ARTICLE X - The Legislature	235,303,100	254,294,070
• GRAND TOTAL, General Revenue	<u>\$ 77,554,279,796</u>	<u>\$ 66,576,134,168</u>

Effective Date: January 1, 2024



HB 1: General Appropriations for Article III – Pre-k-12

Representative Bonnen

General Revenue Fund	\$ 596,451,578	\$ 306,627,105
Available School Fund No. 002, estimated	2,097,246,839	3,109,928,000
Technology and Instructional Materials Fund No. 003	1,036,260,161	13,720,469
Foundation School Fund No. 193, estimated	11,381,239,580	10,724,980,151
Certification and Assessment Fees (General Revenue Fund)	27,783,000	27,783,000
Lottery Proceeds, estimated	1,935,084,000	1,935,084,000
Subtotal, General Revenue Fund	<u>\$ 17,074,065,158</u>	<u>\$ 16,118,122,725</u>
Subtotal, Federal Funds	\$ 6,253,507,590	\$ 6,234,852,485
Subtotal, Other Funds *	\$ 8,686,379,419	\$ 9,173,578,898
Total, Method of Financing	<u>\$ 32,016,563,889</u>	<u>\$ 31,526,554,108</u>
Property Taxes Not Accounted for in HB 1 ~	\$ 33 Billion	\$ 34 Billion

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Property Tax collections include approximately \$9.3 billion in recapture payments over the biennium and Basic Allotment remains at \$6,160.



HB 5: Economic Development

Representatives Hunter; Mayer; Burrows; Shine; Longoria



Analysis – Amends Govt. Code § 403, by adding Subchapter T

- Purpose of the Act is to create high-paying jobs, encourage financially positive economic development, attract large scale economic development; encourage energy and water infrastructure development, etc.
- The program provides **for property value limitations on facilities** designed for manufacturing, dispatchable electric generation (non-renewable), natural resource development or research and development associated with advanced technology.
- Projects are to **be approved using a multi-step process involving the Comptroller, the Governor and a school district board of trustees.**
- Limits M&O taxable value to 25-50% of market value for a 10-year incentive period and eliminates M&O taxable value during construction period.
- Approved projects are required to provide a minimum level of investment between \$20 million and \$200 million, and create between 10 and 75 full-time jobs, depending on the size of the county in which the project is located.
- Requires the appointment of a legislative oversight committee for making recommendations on types of projects eligible for the incentive program.
- Essentially **leaves legacy Tax Code 313 agreements as they existed prior to the new legislation.**



Action Items

- No specific action required by school district boards and/or administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts

- Board of trustees, Chief Financial Officer, district taxpayers

Effective Date: January 1, 2024



HB 1926: Supplemental Special Education Services

Representatives Hull; Bonnen; Buckley; Jetton, Jacey; Dutton



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 29.042

- **Extends the Supplemental Special Education Services Program** (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, private tutoring and other supplemental private instruction or programs) grant program which was established under SB 1716 by the 87th Texas Legislature.
- Eliminates September 1, 2024, as the expiration date for program.
- Alters program funding from \$30 million cap to an amount set by appropriation
- No other changes to Supplemental Special Education Services language in this bill.



Action Items

- Inform parents of students who qualify for special education.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School districts & Charter Schools:

- Students who qualify for special education and their parents/guardians; special education staff

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 3708: Allotment for Non-Enrolled Students Participating in UIL

Representatives Buckley; Cain; Frank



Analysis – Amends Education Code by adding, § 48.305

- Provides an allotment for non-enrolled students participating in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities.
- For each non-enrolled student who participates in a UIL activity for a school district that allows participation of non-enrolled students, the **district is entitled to an annual allotment of \$1,500 per league activity in which the non-enrolled student participates.**
- Non-enrolled student participation in UIL activities became allowed upon passage of HB 547 by the 87th Texas Legislature.



Action Items

- Boards will need to decide if and under what conditions non-enrolled students may participate in UIL activities.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School districts:

- UIL activity sponsors and coaches

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 30: Supplemental Appropriations

Senator Huffman



Analysis – N/A

- Provides **supplemental appropriations and gives direction and adjustment authority** regarding certain appropriations to address revised revenue estimates and supplemental needs.
- Reduces appropriation to TEA Foundation School Program by \$8.4 billion, resulting from lower than anticipated student attendance and higher than anticipated property tax collections.
- Added appropriation of \$1.1 billion for school safety.



Action Items

- No immediate action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools

Effective Date: Immediately



Property Tax – Indirect Bills (1 of 3)



Analysis – Amends Tax Code, Various Sections

- [HB 260](#) - relating to the calculation of net to land in the appraisal of open-space land for ad valorem tax purposes.
- [HB 456](#) - relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain interests in a mineral in a place owned by certain charitable organizations.
- [HB 796](#) - relating to the creation and maintenance by an appraisal district of a publicly available Internet database of information regarding protest hearings.
- [HB 1228](#) - relating to the delivery of certain information under the Property Tax Code.
- [HB 1285](#) - relating to the duties of the taxpayer liaison officer of an appraisal district.
- [HB 2354](#) - relating to the eligibility of land to continue to be appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land following a transfer to a surviving spouse.
- [HB 3207](#) - relating to the composition of the Agricultural Advisory Board of an appraisal district.
- [HB 4077](#) - relating to the procedure for qualifying for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of an elderly person.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school district boards and/or administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

County Appraisal Districts and taxpayers

Effective Date: Most are in effect either September 1, 2023, or January 1, 2024



Property Tax – Indirect Bills (2 of 3)



Analysis – Amends Tax Code, Various Sections

- [HB 4101](#) - relating to matters that may be the subject of limited binding arbitration to compel compliance with procedural requirements related to protests before Appraisal Review Boards.
- [HB 4645](#) - relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property used to provide low-income or moderate-income housing.
- [SB 539](#) - allows individuals who legally defer their taxes under to appear on the tax roll as “deferred” instead of “delinquent”.
- [SB 719](#) - relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by a charitable organization that provides services related to the placement of a child in a foster or adoptive home.
- [SB 1145](#) - relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property used to operate a child-care facility.
- [SB 1381](#) - relating to the eligibility of the surviving spouse of an elderly person who qualified for a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a taxing unit of a portion of the appraised value.
- [SB 1525](#) - relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in property tax appraisal records.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school district boards and/or administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

County Appraisal Districts and taxpayers

Effective Date: Most are in effect either September 1, 2023, or January 1, 2024



Property Tax – Indirect Bills (3 of 3)



Analysis – Amends Tax Code, Various Sections

- [**SB 1801**](#) - relating to a requirement that each appraisal district periodically confirm that recipients of residence homestead exemptions qualify for those exemptions.
- [**SB 1999**](#) - relating to the appeal of certain ad valorem tax determinations through binding arbitration.
- [**SB 2091**](#) - Relating to the authority of a taxing unit to sell certain seized or foreclosed property to an owner of an abutting property without conducting a public sale.
- [**SB 2289**](#) - relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.
- [**SB 2355**](#) - relating to the appeal of certain ad valorem tax determinations through binding arbitration.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school district boards and/or administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

County Appraisal Districts and taxpayers

Effective Date: Most are in effect either September 1, 2023, or January 1, 2024

Human Resources, TRS & Student Specific



HB 108: Specialty License Plates

Representative Cortez



Analysis – Amends Transportation Code, Subchapter F, §504

- Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to **issue specialty license plates** for classroom teachers with at least 15 years of service teaching public school students. The license plates must include the words "Texas Teacher" and depict a Texas public education logo.
- Requires TxDOT to issue specialty license plates for retired classroom teachers with at least 20 years of service teaching public school students. The license plates must include the words "Retired Texas Teacher" and depict a Texas public education logo.
- The fee for the issuance of the license plates is \$5.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

Experienced teachers and retired teachers

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 621: Temporary CTE Certification

Representative Shaheen



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Subchapter B, § 21

- Provides for the issuance of a **temporary certificate to teach career and technology education** (CTE) to a person who meets all other eligibility requirements for standard certification to teach CTE, except that the **person may substitute service as active military or a first responder for certain academic degree requirements**.
- Additional requirements related to training in classroom management may apply depending on prior experience.
- Certifications issued through this process are valid for no more than 3 years, are limited to a one-time issuance, and are non-renewable.



Action Items

- No specific action require by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Potential CTE teachers, HR personnel and CTE directors

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1789: Appointment/Employment of Bus Drivers

Representative Buckley



Analysis – Government Code, § 573.061

- Expands the exception from nepotism regarding the appointment or hiring of bus drivers.
- Existing law exempted districts in a county with a population of under 35,000 from the nepotism restrictions. The new law, provides districts of any size the exception if the board of trustees of the district approves the appointment or employment.



Action Items

- Inform the board of trustees. HR and bus driver supervisors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Transportation department and HR personnel

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 1959: School Transfers of Peace Officers' Children

Representatives Noble; Buckley; Harris, Cody; Dutton; Cook



Analysis – Adds Texas Education Code, Subchapter B, § 25.0344

- On **request of a peace officer who is a parent or guardian**, the board of trustees of a school district or the board's designee shall **transfer the student to another district campus or to another school district under an agreement** under Section 25.035.
- Transfer under this section must be to the campus or school district, as applicable, selected by the peace officer making the request.
- A school district is not required to provide transportation to a student who transfers to another campus or school district.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and administrators responsible for intra/inter district student transfers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Administrators responsible for handling intra/inter district student transfers

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2729: Teacher Requirements for Pre-K

Representative Harris, Cody



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 29.167

- Expands list of qualifications accepted to becoming a pre-k teacher in a high-quality pre-k program. Adds associate or baccalaureate degree in early childhood or related field to optional list of required qualifications in addition to certification. Also, adds Texas Rising Star Program.
- Adds additional language requirements for teachers in a pre-k class provided by an entity with which a school district contracts to provide a pre-k program. Requirements include supervision by a fully certified/qualified teacher, along with additional requirements including but not limited to at least two years experience in accredited or Texas Rising Star program, CDA credential, Montessori certification, etc.
- Intent of bill is to **expand opportunities for school districts to partner with private sector pre-k and day care programs** to provide pre-k for school age children within the school district boundaries.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustees and pre-k administrators.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Pre-k administrators and parents of pre-k eligible children

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



HB 2892: School Transfers of Military Service Members

Representative Buckley



Analysis – Adds Texas Education Code, Subchapter B, § 25.0344

- On **request of a military servicemember who is a parent or guardian**, the board of trustees of a school district or the board's designee shall **transfer the student to another district campus or to another school district under an agreement** under Section 25.035.
- Transfer under this section must be to the campus or school district, as applicable, selected by the military servicemember making the request.
- A school district is not required to provide transportation to a student who transfers to another campus or school district.



Action Items

- Inform board of trustee and administrators responsible for intra/inter district student transfers.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Administrators responsible for handling intra/inter district student transfers

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 2929: Continuing Education for Teachers and Counselors

Representative Lozano



Analysis – Amends Texas Education Code, § 21.045

- HB 2929 was filed to **address unintended consequences of SB 1267** as passed by the 87th Texas Legislature. SB 1267 reinstated a cap on the percentage of mandatory continuing professional education (CPE) topics that classroom teachers, principals, and counselors are required to obtain in order to renew their certificates and denied their ability to count more than 25 percent of CPE hours on certain topics (classroom effectiveness, at risk indicators, digital learning/teaching, educating diverse student populations and understanding appropriate relationships).
- Under HB 2929, training in a topic of instruction described in current law and attended by a classroom teacher which is in excess of 25% of the training required of the teacher every 5 years, can be counted toward the teacher's overall training requirements."
- At least 25% of the total number of CPE hours required for counselors must include certain topics listed in current law. This removes the limit on how many hours in the required topics can count toward counselors' overall training requirements.



Action Items

- Inform teachers, principals, counselors and HR and curriculum directors.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts:

- Classroom teachers and principals

Effective Date: Immediately



HB 4520: Convicted Educators – Employment/Benefits

Representatives Harris, Cody; Shaheen; Cook



Analysis – Amends Code of Criminal Procedure, § 42.018, Education Code, § 21.058, Government Code 824.009

- A person who was convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor shall have their **teaching certificate revoked**.
- The school district or charter school is required to **immediately remove them** from campus or an administrative office to prevent the person from having any contact with a student and take certain employment actions.
- Specifies that the sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor is now a qualifying felony and **would disqualify the person from receiving a service retirement annuity**. The statute applies only to a conviction or order granting deferred adjudication community supervision entered on or after the effect date of the bill. The bill applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date.



Action Items

- Update board policies related to hiring procedures.
- Inform all staff.].
- Train HR Staff



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- All staff and students

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 10: Benefits Paid by Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Senators Huffman; et al. (all Senate members)



Analysis – Amends Government Code by adding, § 824.703

- Provides a cost-of-living adjustment to annuitants (retirees and beneficiaries), ranging from 2% - 6% depending on date of retirement. The cost-of-living adjustment takes effect beginning in January of 2024. **Subject to passage of constitutional amendment – [HJR 2](#).**
- Additionally, the bill provides a one-time payment of a retirement or death benefit in the amount of \$7,500 for annuitants 75 years of age and older, and \$2,400 for annuitants between 70 and 75 years of age. The payment is due to annuitants no later than September of 2023.



Action Items

- No specific action required by school districts or charter schools.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

Retired educators (pre-August 31, 2020)

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 68: Excused Absences for Career Investigation

Senator Zaffirini



Analysis – Amends Education Code, § 25.087

- Authorizes a school district to **excuse a junior or senior student** from attending a school for a career investigation day and **alternatively visit a professional at the professional's workplace** for the purpose of determining the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field,
- Requires school districts to **adopt policy and develop a procedures for verification of visit** by a student to a professional's workplace.
- Allows student to be counted for average daily attendance (ADA).



Action Items

- Update board policies and district procedures related to excused absences and verification of absences.
- Inform teachers, counselors and students.
- Train attendance accounting staff.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School District & Charter Schools:

- Junior and senior students, school staff involved with career investigation

Effective Date: September 1, 2023



SB 544: Temporary Teaching Certificate

Senator Blanco



Analysis - Amends Education Code by adding, § 21.0525

- Requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules providing for a person who has at least **2 semesters' experience as a full-time instructor for the Community College of the Air Force, to be issued a temporary teaching certificate** upon the person's enrollment in an educator preparation program (EPP).
- Allows the individual to receive credit for education, training, and clinical or professional experience as an instructor for the Community College of the Air Force toward the requirements for completion of an EPP including requirements regarding coursework, field-based experience, or clinical experience.
- Specifies that a temporary teaching certificate issued under the bill's provisions is valid for a term of 1 year from the date of issuance.



Action Items

- Inform HR staff and principals.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- HR staff and principals

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Does not take effect until after the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.



SB 798: Certification Requirements for Public School Counselors

Senator Middleton



Analysis - Amends Education Code by adding, § 21.0462

- School counselors are **no longer require to have experience as a classroom teacher to qualify as a candidate for a school counselor's certification.**
- Requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), as soon as possible after the effective date of this Act but not later than January 1, 2024, to propose any rules necessary to implement Section 21.0462, Education Code, as added by this Act.



Action Items

- Inform HR staff, principals and teachers



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter School:

- HR staff, principals and teachers

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

Does not take effect until after the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.



SB 1242: Child-Care Facility Employee Training

Senator LaMantia



Analysis - Amends Human Resource Code, § 42.0421

- Allows a newly designated director of a child-care center that received an administrative penalty from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to start training staff immediately if the newly designated director was not the director at the child-care center when the center received that administrative penalty.



Action Items

- Inform administrators responsible for child-care programming.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts & Charter Schools:

- Child-care centers

Effective Date: September 1, 2023

88th Session of the Texas Legislature, Second Special Session



SB 2: Property Tax Relief Act

Senator Bettencourt and Coauthored by all Senators



Analysis – Amends Education Code, Chapter 46, 48 & 49; Tax Code, Chapters 6, 11, 23, 25, 26, 31, 41, 42; Government Code Chapter 403

- School district tax rate compression. Reduces M&O tax rates by \$0.107 for a **maximum Tier I rate of \$0.668 and a minimum rate of \$0.6192 (90% of max)**.
- School district resident homestead exemption is **increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000**. Extends benefit to homesteads of over 65 and disabled individuals and provides revenue protection for school districts.
- Provides a pilot program (3 years) establishing a **Circuit Breaker** limitation (caps increase at 20% of value from prior year) on non-homestead properties valued at no more than \$5 million.
- Makes changes to the number and method of selection and eligibility requirements for appraisal district board of directors in counties with a population of 75,000 or more.
- Transitional year requirements related to tax rate calculations, and specific language for tax statement notices showing impact of SB 2 tax savings with and without passage of constitutional amendment (HJR 2).
- implementation of SB 2 and SRJ 2 is contingent on passage of SB 3 – franchise tax reduction.



Action Items

- Inform board.
- Train business office staff responsible for tax rate calculations.



Primary Affected Stakeholders

School Districts

- Board of trustees, Chief Financial Officer, district taxpayers

Effective Date: Varies by section but most is contingent on passage of constitutional amendment (HJR 2) in general election.

References and Resources

Texas Legislature Online - [TLO \(texas.gov\)](https://tlo.texas.gov)

Texas ISD - [Home | Texas ISD](#)

Texas Tribune - [The Texas Tribune](#)

Quorum Report - [The Texas Tribune](#)

Thank you!