



SEPTEMBER 2023

The Texas Education Agency

Briefing Book on Public Education Legislation

88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE | REGULAR SESSION





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HB 1416

Relating to accelerated instruction provided to public school students who fail to achieve satisfactory performance on certain assessment instruments.

Author: Representative Keith Bell
Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1416](#) (HB 1416) changes the accelerated instruction requirements from House Bill 4545 from the 87th Legislative Session. These changes include: removing the requirement to convene accelerated learning committees, providing some flexibility in the required hours for accelerated instruction, adding End of Course Assessments, and modifying the prioritization of the subject areas required to receive accelerated instruction. This bill specifies a way parents can opt-out or modify accelerated instruction for their child. The TEA can approve augmented, computerized, and automated models to provide instructional support in lieu of one to four accelerated instruction.

Statute requires that all students who do not perform satisfactorily (achieve “approaches” or higher) on STAAR grades 3 through 8 or End of Course (EOC) assessments be provided accelerated instruction. These requirements, amended by House Bill 1416, provide that qualifying students must be:

- Assigned a **Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) designated teacher** for the subsequent school year in the applicable subject area; or,
- Provided supplemental instruction aligned with the research on high impact tutoring in the TEKS for the applicable grade levels and subject area in the following manner:
 - **No less than 15 or 30 hours** depending on student performance and is provided in the summer or at least once per week in the school year;
 - **Limited to two subjects per year**, prioritizing math and RLA;
 - Provided in a group of **no more than four students**, unless the parent or guardian of each student in the group authorizes a larger group;
 - Designed to assist the student in achieving satisfactory performance in the applicable grade level and subject area and includes **effective instructional materials** designed for supplemental instruction; and
 - Provided by **a person with training in the applicable instructional materials** for the supplemental instruction and provided by one person for the entirety of their accelerated instruction.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 2, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of education rules will be updated to define requirements for students requiring 30 hours of supplemental instruction. Students who fall into the “Low Does Not Meet” category of STAAR performance will receive no less than 30 hours of supplemental instruction. Students in third grade who do not approach grade level or higher will be required to receive 30 hours of supplemental instruction.
- Rules for determination of district waiver qualifications will also be defined.

Other Actions Required

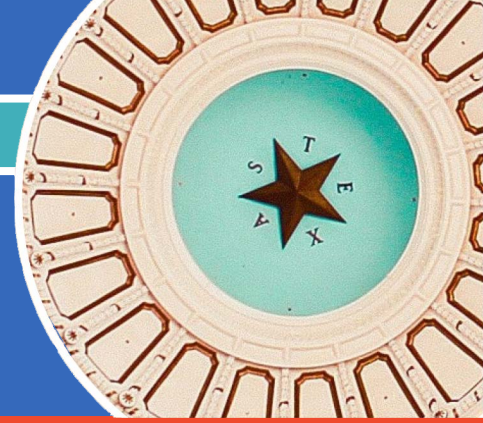
- TEA will set up a process to collect data from districts to monitor implementation of accelerated instruction.

HB 3803

Relating to allowing parents and guardians to elect for a student to repeat or retake a course or grade.

Author: Representative Charles Cunningham

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton

**Bill Summary:**

[House Bill 3803](#) (HB 3803) extends the ability for a parent or guardian to elect for a student to repeat a grade from Kindergarten to third grade to kindergarten to 8th grade.

HB 3803 also permits, subject to provisions related to retention committees, a parent or guardian to elect for their student to repeat any course for high school credit in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year. A parent or guardian may not choose for a student to repeat a course if the district or open-enrollment charter school determines the student has met all the requirements of graduation.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

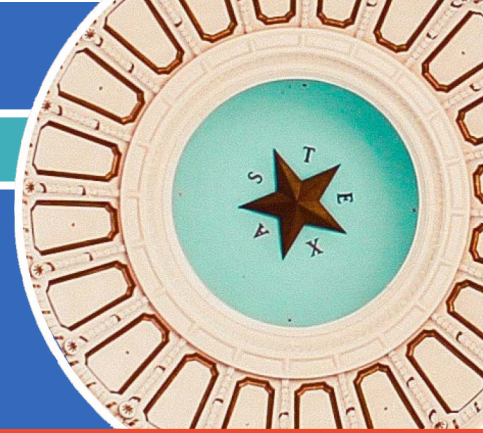
- June 13, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1225

Relating to the administration of certain required assessment instruments in paper format.

Author: Representative Will Metcalf

Sponsor: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1225](#) (HB 1225) school districts may administer a paper version of the STAAR to students upon request of a parent, guardian, or teacher. HB 1225 caps these requests to three percent of the district enrollment. Students receiving special education services, whose admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines that the student needs paper testing accommodations, do not count toward the three percent calculation. If a district gets more requests than available slots under the three percent cap, the district shall accept requests in the order received.

The request for a paper administration of the STAAR must be submitted to the district not later than September 15th for fall administration, and not later than December 1st for spring administration of the assessment.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

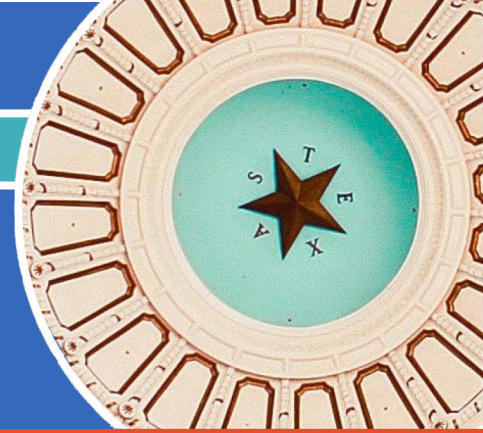
- June 2, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1883

Relating to the administration of assessment instruments on religious holy days.

Author: Representative Salman Bhojani
Sponsor: Senator Lois Kolkhorst

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1883](#) (HB 1883) permits school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to consider holy days or periods of observance when establishing district calendars and state testing days.

HB 1883 defines a religious holy day or period of observance as days observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code.

The bill permits the board of trustees of a public school district or governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to consider the dates of religious holy days or periods of observance likely to be practiced by their students when establishing district calendars, particularly around the state testing windows. The board of trustees or governing body may not exclude more than two days from a testing window based solely on the occurrence of a single religious holy day or period of observance.

Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must provide make-up dates within the testing window for the assessments required under Section 39.023 of the Texas Education Code to students who are absent from school on scheduled testing dates to observe a religious holy day or period of observance.

TEA may adopt rules as necessary to ensure students who are absent to observe religious holy days are administered required assessments on alternative dates.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- Upon Governor's signature.

Rulemaking:

- The Commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to ensure a student is administered an assessment instrument on an alternative date as necessary to comply with this section.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 18

Relating to the protection of minors from harmful, deceptive, or unfair trade practices in connection with the use of certain digital services and electronic devices including the use and transfer of electronic devices to students by a public school.

Author: Representative Shelby Slawson

Sponsor: Senator Bryan Hughes



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 18](#) (HB 18) is referred to as the Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act and requires social media businesses to provide certain restrictions and protections on accounts or interactions with minors who use their platforms. The bill also clarifies requirements for data-collection of minors, what content minors are being exposed too, and parental tools.

HB 18 also gives direction to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools when transferring electronic devices to students. Electronic devices include a computer, smartphone, or tablet that is capable of connecting to a cellular network or the Internet.

TEA is required to adopt standards for what qualifies as permissible electronic devices and software applications that school districts and open-enrollment charter schools may use. Minimum guidelines for the standards are included in the bill.

HB 18 requires districts or open-enrollment charter schools to adopt rules establishing programs promoting parents as partners in cybersecurity and online filters that block and prohibit pornographic or obscene materials or applications, including from unsolicited pop-ups, installations, and downloads.

A joint committee of the legislature will be convened to study the effect of media on minors.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

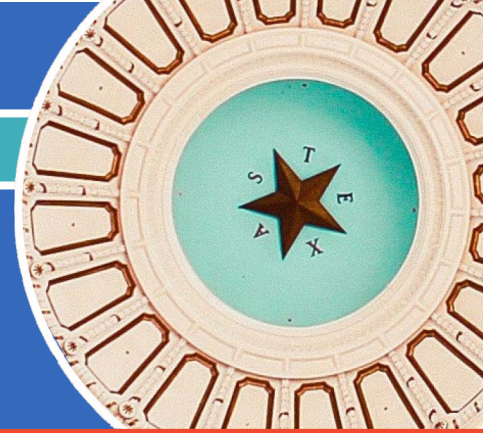
- Article III, pertaining to standards adoption for electronic device transfers: June 13, 2023
- All other bill provisions: June 1, 2024

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- TEA is required to develop standards for permissible electronic devices and software applications used by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.



SB 271

Relating to state agency and local government security incident procedures.

Author: Senator Nathan Johnson
 Sponsor: Representative Matt Shaheen

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 271](#) (SB 271) replaces “security breaches” with “security incidents” and makes the reporting requirements of such incidents applicable to local governments in addition to state agencies. This section of the Texas Government Code is now renamed “Security Incident Notification by State Agency or Local Government.”

SB 271 defines a ‘security incident’ as:

- a breach or suspected breach of system security, as defined by Section 521.053, Business and Commerce Code; and
- the introduction of ransomware, as defined by Section 33.023, Penal Code, into a computer, computer network, or computer system.

All state agencies and local governments that maintain digital information that is sensitive or confidential must comply with all rules established by the Department of Information Resources relating to reporting security incidents.

SB 271 does not apply to a security incident that a local government is required to report to an independent organization certified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas under Texas Utilities Code 39.151.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 1238

Relating to broadband development.

Author: Senator Robert Nichols

Sponsor: Representative Trent Ashby

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1238](#) (SB 1238) amends statute regarding the broadband framework established by HB 5 (87R).

Specifically, SB 1238 updates the definition of broadband access and adopts standards for what constitutes served, underserved, and unserved locations. With the location-based broadband data available, SB 1238 revises metrics to be utilized for the creation of the state's broadband map. Additionally, this legislation aligns state and federal guidelines for deployment of federal funds, where necessary.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 2, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.





SB 1893

Relating to prohibiting the use of certain social media applications and services on devices owned or leased by governmental entities.

Author: Senator Brian Birdwell

Sponsor: Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1893](#) (SB 1893) requires all governmental entities, including local education agencies (LEAs), to ban the application TikTok from all state-owned and state-issued devices and networks. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) are required to develop a model policy providing state agencies guidance on managing personal devices used to conduct state business. Not later than 60 days following the adoption of such a policy shall state agencies adopt a policy of their own that complies with the DIR/DPS model policy.

DIR’s prohibited technologies guidance can be found here:

<https://dir.texas.gov/information-security/prohibited-technologies>.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

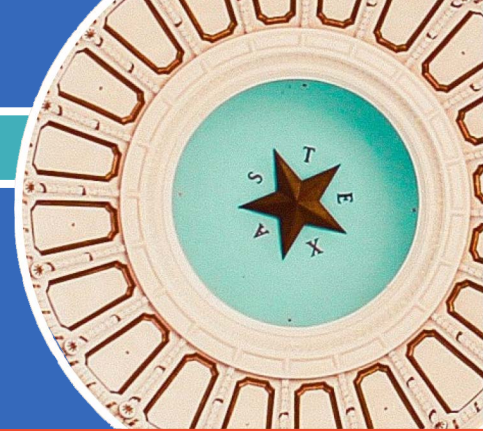
- June 14, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- The TEA and LEAs must adopt a model policy within 60 days of the DIR/DPS model policy.



HB 1707

Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools.

Author: Representative Stephanie Klick

Sponsor: Senator Bryan Hughes

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1707](#) (HB 1707) provides that a political subdivision will consider an open-enrollment charter school a school district for purposes related to land-development standards, licensing, zoning, and various purposes and services. An open-enrollment charter school that is considered a school district for these provisions must adhere to the same political subdivision requirements as a school district.

The governing body of an open-enrollment charter school must certify in writing to the political subdivision that no employee, board member or charter holder of the charter school received any personal financial benefits from a real estate transaction with the charter school. Open-enrollment charter schools will not be considered a school district to collect impact fees imposed by the Local Government Code 395.022.

Open-enrollment charter schools will not have the power of eminent domain.

Political subdivisions cannot take action that would prohibit an open-enrollment charter school from operating school-related facilities within the political subdivision's jurisdiction. A political subdivision will provide the same approval and timelines for a new campus to the open-enrollment charter school as it would a school district located in its jurisdiction, provided the open-enrollment charter school files notice of the new campus' location within 20 business days of completing the purchase/ lease of real property for that campus.

An agreement between a municipality and an open-enrollment charter school may require the following:

- Any revised land development standards can only apply while the property is used for charter school related purposes; and
- Any property in use subject to open-enrollment chart school land development standards must become compliant with all applicable non-school commercial development regulations after the closure or relocation of the charter school.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 12, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.





HB 2102

Relating to the establishment of a new open-enrollment charter school campus by certain charter holders and to the expansion of an open-enrollment charter school.

Author: Representative Craig Goldman
Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2102](#) (HB 2102) amends the timeline that charter holders can notify or request expansion amendments from 18 to 36 months. This request does not obligate the charter holder to complete the proposed expansion.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 2032

Relating to adult high school charter programs.

Author: Senator Brandon Creighton

Sponsor: Representative Brad Buckley



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2032](#) (SB 2032) changes the guidelines for establishing adult charter schools including removing the term “nonprofit entity” and replacing it with “eligible entity”. An eligible entity is defined as a nonprofit entity, a school district, an entity granted a charter under subchapter d, or an institution of higher education.

SB 2032 expands the authorizing power of the commissioner from two per year with a total of 6 to a new total of 10 and no per-year limit. The commissioner must accept applications for charters to operate an adult education program starting September 1st of each year for 60 days, and applicants must be provided with notice of a preliminary decision to grant or deny the charter with a written reason for a denial and an opportunity to cure any defects in the application, within 60 days of the last day to submit the application.

The commissioner may revoke a charter under this legislation if it does not meet the minimum standard for three consecutive years after the second year of operation.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- May 29, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner rules may be adopted regarding the application process under Texas Education code (TEC) 12.2565. This rule may include a maximum number of students who may enroll in a charter holder’s adult education program.

Other Actions Required

- TEA will amend its application process for programs under this section.

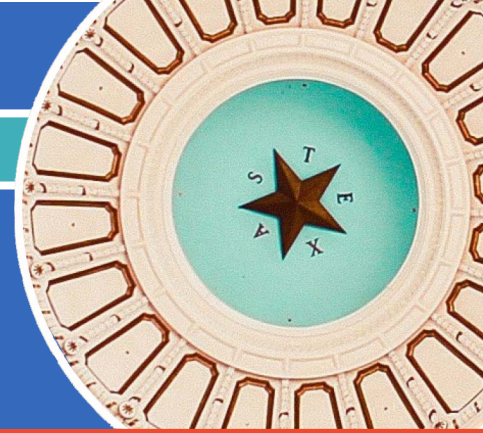


HB 8

Relating to public higher education, including the public junior college state finance program.

Author: Representative Gary VanDeaver

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 8](#) (HB 8) establishes a Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program to enable certain students to enroll, at no cost to the student, in dual credit courses offered by participating institutions of higher education (IHE). A student is eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in a dual credit course under this program if the student:

- (1) is enrolled in high school in a school district or charter school and in a dual credit course at a participating IHE; and
- (2) was educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four school years preceding the student's enrollment in the dual credit course.

Under this program, when a high school student enrolls in a dual credit course, the student's school district or open-enrollment charter school must, determine whether the student meets the criteria for the program and notify the IHE that offers the dual credit course in which the student is enrolled. A school district may determine whether the student meets the criteria based on the district's or school's records, TEA's records, or any other method authorized by commissioner or Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) rule. Additionally, school districts are required to annually notify the parents of each student in grades 9-12 of the availability of funding for enrollment in a dual credit course.

This legislation adds an additional requirement to memorandums of understanding, or articulation agreements, between a school district and a public IHE, that any dual credit program agreement must ensure the accurate and timely exchange of information necessary for an eligible student to enroll at no cost in a dual credit course.

Additionally, this legislation amends statute to require rather than permit a school district or open-enrollment charter school to award a student a Texas First Early High School diploma if the student meets THECB requirements and demonstrates early readiness for college. This bill also expands the list of eligible IHEs where students may use the scholarship.

HB 8 requires TEA to work with the THECB and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to obtain and post on TEA's website wage information and educational requirements for in demand jobs in Texas, baccalaureate degree and associate degree, or certificate programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation.

This legislation entitles a junior college district to performance tier funding for the number of credentials of value awarded and the number of students who complete a sequence of at least 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent for dual credit or dual enrollment courses that apply toward academic or workforce program requirements at the postsecondary level.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

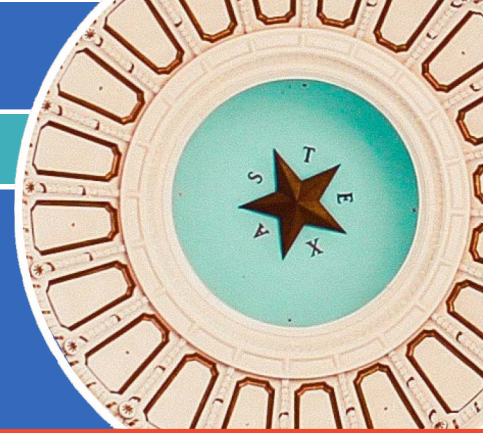
- See bill text for effective date.

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of Education and THECB, will establish rules to administer the FAST program.

Other Actions Required

- TEA will provide guidance on the new FAST program.



HB 1391

Relating to the requirements to obtain a residential wireman license.

Author: Representative Matt Schaefer
Sponsor: Senator Charles Perry

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1391](#) (HB 1391) expands the options to obtain a residential wireman license for electricians to include a career and technology education (CTE) program. The person providing the training must be licensed as a master electrician, journeyman electrician, or residential wireman.

Current law requires an applicant for a license as a residential wireman to have at least 4,000 hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of a master electrician or residential wireman. This bill amends Texas Occupations Code (TOC) §1305.157 to allow an applicant to successfully complete a CTE program in the electrical trades as described by TOC §1305.1575 in lieu of the 4000 hours of on-the-job training.

The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation is required to adopt rules to establish standards for a CTE program in the electrical trades, subject to approval from the State Board of Education if the courses are to be offered in high school. Rules must require the program to include an appropriate number of instructional hours, a practical component, and provide for crediting appropriate on-the-job training toward meeting the requirements of the practical component.

HB 1391 also establishes that a student of any age who is enrolled in a CTE program is eligible to take the sequence of courses without being licensed. A person is not authorized to perform electrical work without the appropriate license outside of a program described by HB 1391.

HB 1391 establishes that a CTE program offered by an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) cannot be more stringent than a program offered by a public high school. Additionally, the hours spent completing a program may not be credited toward any on-the-job training required to apply for a license.

A license holder who provides instruction for a CTE program in the electrical trades will not be required to pay a fee to renew a license.

The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation is required to consult with Texas State Technical College and relevant interest groups in the electrical industry in developing standards for the CTE program.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

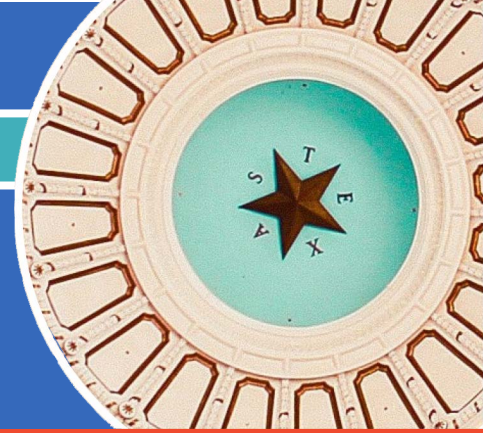
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- SBOE approval is required for the electrical trade CTE program that the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation develops to be offered in high schools.



HB 1590

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.

Author: Representative DeWayne Burns

Sponsor: Senator Royce West

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1590](#) (HB 1590) establishes a new scholarship program, Texas Leadership Scholars Program, to be administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), as a merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity program for high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need.

The bill defines “leadership scholarship” to mean a scholarship awarded to an undergraduate student under the program and “research scholarship” to mean a scholarship awarded to a graduate student under the program.

THECB may contract with one or more institutions of higher education (IHE) to assist in administering the program. THECB may also establish one or more advisory committees for the purpose of recommending rules for the administration of the program.

The bill establishes eligibility for and continuation of receipt of the award of a leadership scholarship and a research scholarship.

HB 1590 also requires the THECB, in consultation with general academic teaching institutions, to adopt rules for the administration of the program, including the amount and permissible uses of a scholarship. The rules must provide that the amount of a research scholarship is at least 150 percent of the amount of a leadership scholarship and that a student may not receive a scholarship for more than four years. The THECB is not required to use negotiated rulemaking for adoption of these rules.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- June 12, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- Rulemaking is required of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



HB 1703

Relating to the workforce development evaluation system administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, including the establishment of a workforce development career education and training evaluation pilot program.

Author: Representative Claudia Ordaz

Sponsor: Senator César Blanco

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1703](#) (HB 1703) requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish and administer a pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area. Under this program, the local workforce development board is required to collect and evaluate cross sectional data and longitudinal supplemental data regarding career education and training programs. The purpose of the collection and evaluation of data is to identify successful program components and to identify any gaps in data used to follow up on program participants after program completion maintained by TWC, TEA, or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative.

Under the pilot program, TWC must ensure that the local workforce development board maintains evaluation data and data regarding the attainment of employment paying a self-sufficient wage for each participant following program completion.

Upon completion of the pilot program, the local workforce development board, in coordination with TWC, must issue an analysis, by occupation and provider, of the job placement performance of the program.

TWC is permitted to share outcomes information with state agencies on the council. HB 1703 requires a report be sent by TWC to the legislature by December 1, 2028 on the results of the pilot program and whether it should be continued on a statewide basis.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

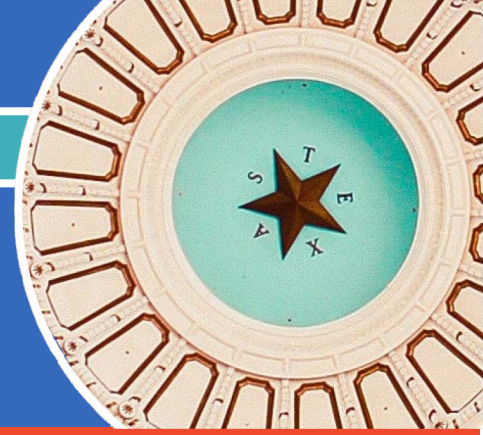
- A pilot program will be developed by the TWC.
- TWC will create and send a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2028.

HB 2209

Relating to establishing the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) and creating an allotment and outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program to support the program.

Author: Representative J.M. Lozano

Sponsor: Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa

**Bill Summary:**

[House Bill 2209](#) (HB 2209) establishes the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program. This program would allow rural schools districts to partner with at least one other school district and a coordinating entity to offer college and career pathways aligned to regional labor market projections for high-wage, high-demand careers. Under this statute R-PEP programs are provided grants to assist with planning and implementation, an adjusted formula for calculating average daily attendance (ADA), an additional allotment, and a college, career, and military readiness (CCMR) outcomes bonus.

The commissioner will establish and administer the R-PEP program to incentivize and support multi-district, cross-sector, and rural college and career pathway partnerships for underserved students while promoting rural economic development. To be eligible to participate in the R-PEP program a district must have fewer than 1,600 students in ADA and partner with at least one other school district within 100 miles to offer college and career pathways that align with regional labor market projections for high-wage, high-demand careers. These partnerships will be managed by a coordinating entity.

Eligibility:

School districts interested in R-PEP are required to notify the commissioner of education their intent to enter into the agreement using procedures established by the commissioner. In authorizing R-PEP partnerships, the commissioner is required to give priority to partnerships in which participating districts contract with a coordinating entity that has at least two years' experience or employs an executive officer with at least two years' experience managing college and career pathways under a performance contract. The commissioner is required to notify districts of R-PEP approval within 60 days of a district's application.

Funding:

The commissioner is required to make available grants for use by a coordinating entity for a two-year period to assist with costs associated with the planning, development, establishment, or expansion of R-PEP partnerships using state funds allocated under this statute, as well as money appropriated for that purpose, and any other funds made available.

For each full-time student in grades 9-12 in average daily attendance enrolled in an R-PEP college or career pathway, a school district is entitled to an allotment equal to the basic allotment or, if applicable, the sum of the basic allotment and the small to mid-sized district allotment to which the district is entitled,

- multiplied by 1.15, if the student is educationally disadvantaged;
- or 1.11, if the student is not educationally disadvantaged. ~~Confinted onfo new page~~

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

- See bill text for effective date.

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of education must adopt rules pertaining to the establishment and administration of the R-PEP program and grant program.

Other Actions Required

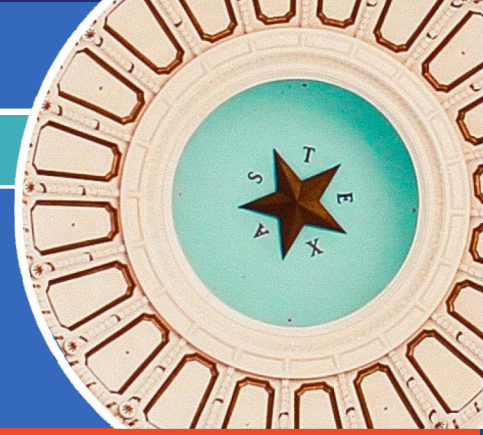
- TEA will establish and administer R-PEP program.
- The Commissioner will create a process for districts to notify TEA of their interest in participating in R-PEP.

HB 2209

Relating to establishing the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R PEP) and creating an allotment and outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program to support the program.

Author: Representative J.M. Lozano

Sponsor: Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa

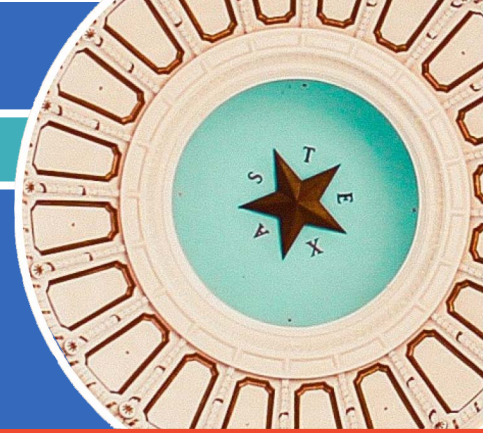


For each R-PEP graduate who earns a postsecondary credential of value during the preceding school year, in excess of the minimum number determined for the applicable cohort for that school year, the school district is entitled to an annual outcomes bonus of:

- \$1,500, if the graduate is educationally disadvantaged;
- \$750, if the graduate is not educationally disadvantaged; and
- \$1,500, if the graduate is enrolled in a special education program, regardless of whether the graduate is educationally disadvantaged.

At least 80 percent of funds allocated under this section are required to be spent as provided in the budget adopted by the board of the coordinating entity. For each school district, the commissioner is required to determine the minimum number of annual graduates an R-PEP pathway must have that obtain a postsecondary credential of value including: a degree, certificate, or other credential that prepares the student for continued learning and greater earnings in the state economy, as determined by the THECB, not later than five years after high school graduation.





HB 2920

Relating to the distribution, posting, or provision of information regarding a postsecondary education and career opportunities and to the confidentiality of certain information relating to persons provided assistance in accessing postsecondary education.

Author: Representative Dennis Paul
Sponsor: Senator Paul Bettencourt

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2920](#) (HB 2920) requires the TEA to make information publicly available to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of certificate programs, associate or baccalaureate degree programs, or other credential programs offered by an institution of higher education (IHE) or private or independent IHE.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is required to develop electronic tools or platforms to provide information for use in comparing each institution with other institutions.

Information that must be posted by the TEA includes the following:

- Annual starting wage information and educational requirements for the top 25 highest demand jobs in Texas;
- 40 baccalaureate degree programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation; and
- 20 associate degree or certificate programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation.

HB 2920 requires the THECB to develop one or more electronic tools or platforms to provide information to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program, or other credential program offered by an IHE or private or independent IHE by comparing each institution with other institutions regarding the following:

- The relative cost of obtaining the certificate, degree, or other credential
- The value of the certificate, degree, or other credential
- The average student debt-to-income ratio of students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from the institution and have student debt
- Progress on repaying student loans by students who graduated with the certificate, degree, or other credential from the institution
- Educational outcomes for students seeking the certificate, degree, or other credential

An electronic common admission application form adopted by a university system must include a prominent link to the electronic tools or platforms developed by THECB.

THECB may solicit and accept gift, grants, and donations from any public or private source to implement the electronic tools or platform described in HB 2920.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- TEA will make information regarding IHEs available on the agency's website.



HB 4363

Relating to the establishment of the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for certain students at public institutions of higher education.

Author: Representative John Kuempel

Sponsor: Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4363](#) (HB 4363) establishes the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program. This program is created to recruit, prepare, and retain a talented and diverse workforce of career teachers to be leaders in their field. The program will provide assistance for tuition, mandatory fees, and other usual and customary costs of attendance at an eligible institution.

The bill adds the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program to the list of programs and scholarships that school districts are required to notify middle school students, junior high school students, and high school students, those students’ teachers and school counselors, and those students’ parents exist.

HB 4363 clarifies the program requirements of an eligible program and eligible student recipient. Recipients who meet the established criteria laid out in the statute may continue receiving the scholarship each semester.

A person is not eligible to receive this scholarship if the person has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense relating to the duties and responsibilities of the education profession.

The amount of the scholarship is equal to the amount of a scholarship for the preceding academic year, adjusted for inflation. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the scholarship is \$12,000. THECB will work with financial aid coordinators of eligible institutions when developing rules around the distribution of the scholarship.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 13, 2023

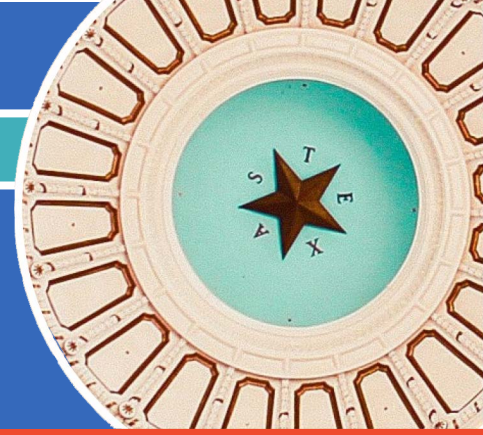
Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will adopt rules around scholarship qualifications.





SB 68

Relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to visit a professional's workplace for a career investigation day.

Author: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Sponsor: Representative Andrew Murr

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 68](#) (SB 68) allows a school district to excuse a student's absence from school to visit a professional's workplace for a career investigation day.

A district is prohibited from excusing more than two days during a students' junior year and two days during a student's senior year. A district must adopt a policy for absences excused for this purpose and a procedure to verify the student's visit at the professional's workplace.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- May 24, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 1887

Relating to the requirements for the early college education program and the transfer of course credit among public institutions of higher education.

Author: Senator Royce West

Sponsor: Representative Chris Turner

**Bill Summary:**

[Senate Bill 1887](#) (SB 1887) amends the Early College Education Program. This program was established for students at risk of dropping out of school or who wish to accelerate completion of high school. SB 1887 adds the requirement that the Early College Education Program allow students to complete high school and enroll in a program at an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) to receive a high school diploma and either an applied associate degree or an academic associate degree with a completed field of study. This degree must be transferable toward a baccalaureate degree at one or more general academic teaching institutions.

Each year, public junior colleges are required to report courses taken at their college that successfully transferred to other IHEs during the preceding academic year. This report must also include the number of earned associate degrees at the college. This report is sent to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the legislature. SB 1887 changes the deadline for the report from March 1st to May 1st of each year.

Institutions are required to report courses that were taken at other IHEs and that were not accepted for academic credit at their institution. This report must be sent to the THECB and the legislature. SB 1887 changes the deadline for the report from March 1st to May 1st of each year.

SB 1887 also amends the dispute resolution process that IHEs must use in denying the application of course credit earned by a student at another IHE. The receiving IHE must do the following:

- Give written notice to the student and other IHE of the institution’s intention to deny the course credit and reasons for the proposed denial
- Attempt to resolve the dispute not later than the 45th day after which the student enrolls at that institution
- Notify the commissioner of higher education of the dispute if it is not resolved

After the notice of a dispute is received by the commissioner of higher education, the commissioner has 20 days to make a final determination and give written notice to the IHE and the student. This decision cannot be appealed.

SB 1887 permits the THECB to approve a core curriculum of fewer than 42 semester credit hours for an associate degree program if the approval would facilitate the award of a degree or transfer of credit. THECB must adopt rules regarding the core curriculum using negotiated rulemaking procedures and appoint a committee to advise on the rules. If a student successfully completes the approved core curriculum at an IHE, that block of courses may be transferred to another IHE and be substituted for the receiving institution’s core curriculum. ~~Confinted on new page~~

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

- May 23, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- Rulemaking is required of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

SB 1887

Relating to the requirements for the early college education program and the transfer of course credit among public institutions of higher education.

Author: Senator Royce West

Sponsor: Representative Chris Turner

Additionally, THECB may now authorize a general academic teaching institution to adopt a set of courses that must be completed for each field of study for which the IHE offers a degree program. These courses should total at least six semester credit hours or the equivalent and be posted on the IHE's website. Students who complete a field of study curriculum may transfer that block of courses to an IHE to be substituted for lower division requirements for the degree program for the field of study, subject to completion of the set of courses adopted by the IHE.



SB 2139

Relating to the establishment of the Opportunity High School Diploma Program.

Author: Senator Tan Parker

Sponsor: Representative Oscar Longoria

**Bill Summary:**

[Senate Bill 2139](#) (SB 2139) establishes the Opportunity High School Diploma Program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), in consultation with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), must administer the program intended to provide an alternative means by which adult students enrolled in a workforce education program at a public junior college may earn a high school diploma 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 in Texas.

This bill permits the THECB to approve not more than five public junior colleges to participate in the program. A proposed program would be permitted to include any combination of instruction, curriculum, achievement, internships, or other means by which a student may attain knowledge sufficient to adequately prepare the student for postsecondary education or additional workforce education. A public junior college may apply together with one or more public junior colleges, general academic teaching institutions, public school districts, or nonprofit organizations with whom the proposed program would be offered.

In administering the program, THECB will ensure that the public junior college's proposed program will provide instruction and assessments appropriate to ensure that a student who successfully completes the program demonstrates levels of knowledge sufficient to adequately prepare the student for postsecondary education or additional workforce education. THECB may coordinate with TEA as necessary to make this determination. SB 2139 permits 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, if the student performs satisfactorily on assessment instruments prescribed by THECB rule. A high school diploma awarded under the program would be equivalent to a high school diploma awarded under TEC, §28.025.

THECB is required to submit to the legislature a progress report on the effectiveness of the program and any recommendations for legislative or other action not later than December 1, 2026.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

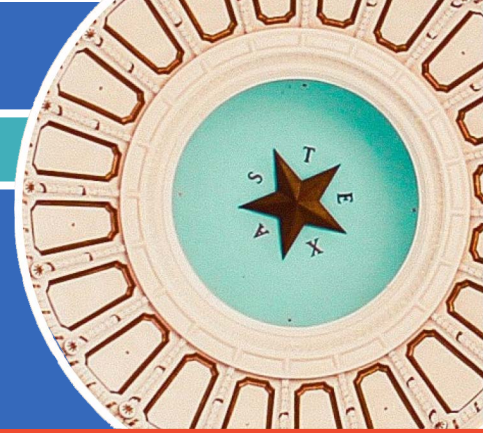
- THECB will collaborate with TEA and TWC on application and details of the program.

Senate Bill 2144

Relating to advanced air mobility technology.

Author: Senator Tan Parker

Sponsor: Representative David Cook



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2144](#) (SB 2144) requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDoT) to create an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Advisory Committee to prepare and submit a statewide AAM Plan by November 1, 2024. This bill defines AAM as an aviation and transportation system that uses highly automated aircraft to operate and transport passengers or cargo. The AAM Advisory Committee must be composed of members that represent diverse geographic regions of the state, members of state and local law enforcement, AAM industry experts, transportation experts, commercial airport representatives, vertical takeoff and landing operators and airport operators, local governments, and the general public. The AAM Advisory Committee is tasked with holding public hearings in locations across the state or via electronic means and receive comments, which will be used to develop the statewide plan.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas State Technical College System (TSTC) are directed to jointly collaborate with school districts, institutions of higher education and stakeholders on educational opportunities related to advanced air mobility technology.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- TEA is required to work with THECB and TSTC to aid education opportunities related to AAM technology.

SB 2294

Relating to the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and the Texas First Scholarship Program.

Author: Senator Brandon Creighton

Sponsor: Representative John Kuempel



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2294](#) (SB 2294) changes the definition of an eligible institution of higher education (IHE) for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and the Texas First Scholarship Program. Additionally, SB 2294 requires, rather than permits, a school district or open-enrollment charter school to allow a student to graduate and receive a high school diploma under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program.

Under existing law, the Texas First Early High School Completion Program allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school. The qualifications for this program are as follows:

- Mastery of each subject area for which the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the TEA have adopted college readiness standards;
- Mastery of a language other than English; and
- Demonstration of early readiness for college via acceptable assessments and other means.

Students who complete the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and enroll at an eligible IHE can receive a state credit that may be applied to the student's tuition, fees, and other costs of attendance at the institution through the Texas First Scholarship Program. The Texas First Scholarship Program and the Texas First Early High School Completion Program aim to incentivize the enrollment of high-performing students at eligible IHEs. Prior to SB 2294, an eligible IHE was designated as a research university or emerging researching university, as defined by the THECB. This legislation expands eligible IHEs to include all IHEs as defined by TEC §61.003 instead of just those designated as research universities or emerging research universities.

Prior to SB 2294, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools were permitted to issue students who demonstrated mastery of and early readiness for college with a diploma under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program. This legislation changes the law to require rather than permit school districts and charter schools to award a student with a diploma under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program if a student meets the requirements stated above.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

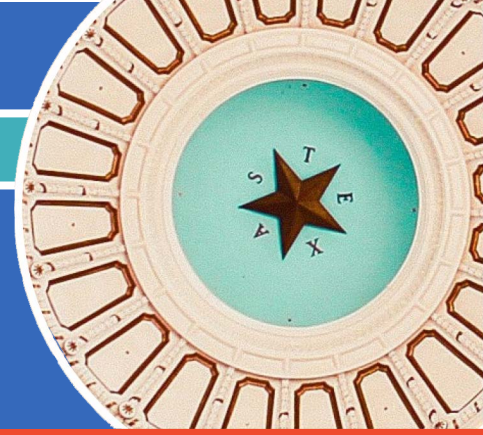
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2929

Relating to continuing education and training requirements for classroom teachers and public school counselors.

Author: Representative J.M. Lozano

Sponsor: Senator Royce West

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2929](#) (HB 2929) clarifies that the list of continuing education topics in Texas Education Code (TEC) 21.054(d) cannot be required to account for more than 25 percent of a teacher's continuing education over a five year period. The bill also states that if a teacher does attend training in those topics that exceed 25 percent of the teacher's total continuing education requirements, those hours must be counted toward the total.

Wording related to continuing education requirements for school counselors was revised to require that at least 25 percent, rather than not more than 25 percent, of their continuing education requirements must include instruction in the listed topics.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 10, 2023

Rulemaking

- The State Board for Educator Certification will amend their rules regarding renewal and continuing professional education requirements, to update continuing professional education requirements to align with the legislation.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 763

Relating to allowing public schools to employ or accept as volunteers chaplains.

Author: Senator Mayes Middleton

Sponsor: Representative Cole Hefner



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 763](#) (SB 763) allows school districts or open-enrollment charter schools to 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 by or volunteering with a school district is not required to be certified by the State Board of Education (SBEC).

As a school employee, the chaplain would be subject to the background check fingerprinting requirements under Texas Education Code (TEC) 22.0833 and the “Do Not Hire Registry” background check (TEC 22.092). A district or open-enrollment charter school may not employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The amendment adds “chaplains” to the list of school personnel for whom school safety allotment funds may be used.

Each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take a record vote not later than six 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.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 798

Relating to the certification requirements for a public school counselor.

Author: Senator Mayes Middleton

Sponsor: Representative Brad Buckley



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 798](#) (SB 798) prohibits classroom teaching experience from being included as a requirement in order for an individual to become a certified school counselor. As a result of SB 798, current State Board of Education Certification (SBEC) requirements for a school counselor certification will include:

- Completing an approved Educator Preparation Program for School Counselor Grades Early Childhood – 12th grade;
- Holding a Master's degree from an Institution of Higher Education accredited by an accrediting agency, as recognized by The Higher Education Coordinating Board; and
- Completing the required certification exam.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The SBEC will adopt rules for implementation of SB 798 no later than January 1, 2024.

Other Actions Required

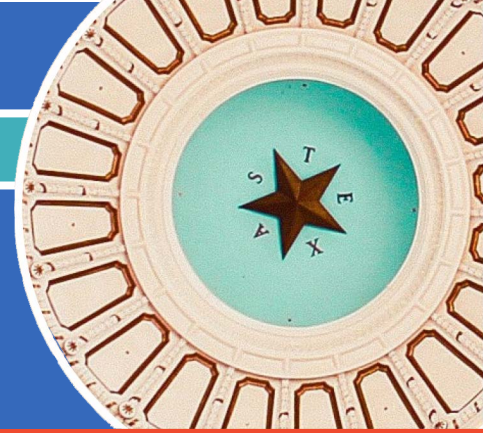
- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 900

Relating to the regulation of library materials sold to or included in public school libraries.

Author: Representative Jared Patterson

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton



General Description:

[House Bill 900](#) (HB 900) establishes regulatory authority for preventing the sale of library materials that are deemed to contain sexually relevant or sexually explicit content. Additionally, this legislation requires library material vendors to self-report any materials that may have sexually relevant or sexually explicit content. TEA is required to publish a list of books that vendors report have sexually relevant or sexually explicit material and any library material vendors that fail to comply with the legislation.

By January 1, 2024, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBOE), must adopt voluntary standards for library services, other than collection development, that a school district must consider in developing, implementing, or expanding library services. TSLAC, with the approval of the SBOE, must adopt standards for school library collection development that a school district must adhere to in developing or implementing the district's library collection development policies. These standards must include a collection development policy that

- prohibits the possession, acquisition, and purchase of harmful material, as defined by Texas Penal Code §43.24; library material rated sexually explicit by the vendor; or library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable as referenced in *Pico v. Board of Education*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982);
- recognizes that obscene content is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- is required for all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, and online catalogs;
- recognizes that parents are the primary decision makers regarding a student's access to library material;
- encourages schools to provide library catalog transparency;
- recommends schools communicate effectively with parents regarding library collection development; and
- prohibits the removal of material based solely on the ideas contained in the material, or personal background of the author of the material or characters in the material.

The standards adopted by TSLAC must be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

HB 900 prohibits a library material vendor from selling library materials to a school district or charter school unless the vendor has issued appropriate ratings regarding sexually explicit material and sexually relevant material previously sold to a district or school. A library material vendor is required to perform a contextual analysis of the material to **39**

(Continued to next page)

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The State Board of Education must consult on the TSLAC voluntary standards for library services and must approve TSLAC's standards for school library collection development.
- The Commissioner of Education may adopt rules to implement the new requirements of this legislation.

Other Actions Required

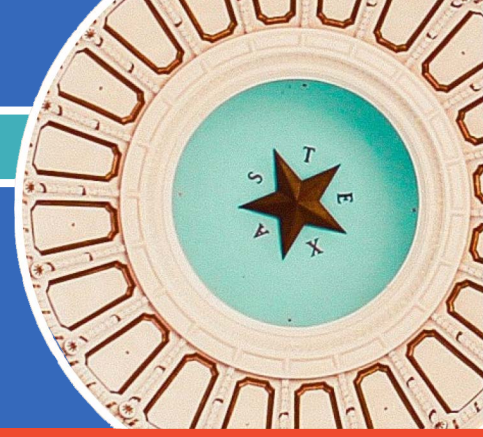
- TEA will post on the agency's website a report from library materials vendors that lists books that contain sexually relevant and sexually explicit material.
- TEA will post on the agency's website a list of vendors that fail to comply with reporting books that are rated as sexually explicit or sexually relevant.

HB 900

Relating to the regulation of library materials sold to or included in public school libraries.

Author: Representative Jared Patterson

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton



determine whether it describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct in a way that is patently offensive. Vendors may not sell any books with sexually explicit content going forward and must issue a recall for all copies of library materials sold to a district or open-enrollment charter school that are rated as sexually explicit and in active use. No later than April 1, 2024, each library material vendor must develop and submit to TEA a list of materials rated as sexually explicit or sexually relevant sold by the vendor to a school district or open-enrollment charter school that are still in active use. Each library material vendor must submit an updated list to TEA by September 1st of each year.

TEA must post each list submitted by a library material vendor in a conspicuous place on the agency's website as soon as practicable. HB 900 permits TEA to review each library material sold by a vendor that is not rated or that is incorrectly rated by the vendor, as sexually explicit material, or sexually relevant material, or not rated. If TEA determines that the library material is required to be rated as sexually explicit or sexually relevant material, or to receive no rating at all, the agency is required to notify the vendor in writing. The notice must include information regarding the library material vendor's duty and provide the corrected rating. A library material vendor, no later than 60 days after receiving a written notice from TEA, is required to rate the library material according to the agency's corrected rating and notify the agency of the action taken. TEA must post on the agency's website a list of library material vendors that fail to comply with requirements to correct ratings. A school district or open-enrollment charter school is prohibited from purchasing library materials from a library material vendor that is on TEA's posted list of noncompliance. A library material vendor placed on the list of noncompliance may petition TEA for removal from the list. TEA is permitted to remove a vendor from the list, only if the agency is satisfied that the vendor has taken appropriate action to correct a library material's rating. Furthermore, HB 900 establishes that a school district, open-enrollment charter school, teacher, librarian, or other staff member is not liable for any claim or damage resulting from a library material vendor's violation of this statute.

This legislation requires each school district and open-enrollment charter school, not later than January 1st of every odd-numbered year, to

- review the content of each library material in the catalog of a district or school library that is rated as sexually relevant material by the library material vendor;
- determine, in accordance with the district's or school's policies regarding the approval, review, and reconsideration of school library materials, whether to retain each library material reviewed in the school library catalog; and
- either post a report in a conspicuous place on the district or school's website or provide physical copies of a report at the central administrative building.

The report must include the title of each library material reviewed, the district's or school's decision regarding the library material, and the school or campus where the library material is currently located.

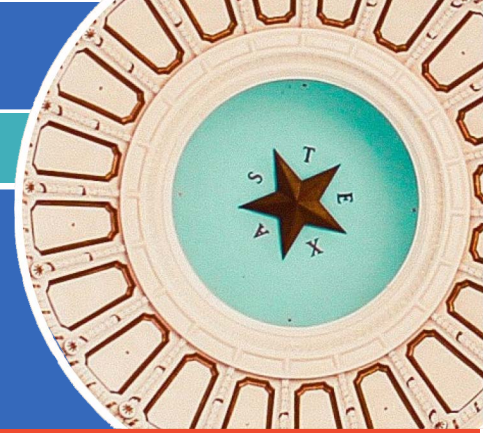


House Bill 1605

Relating to instructional material and technology, the adoption of essential knowledge and skills for certain public school foundation curriculum subjects, and the extension of additional state aid to school districts for the provision of certain instructional materials.

Author: Representative Brad Buckley

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1605](#) (HB 1605), changes and expands the State Board of Education (SBOE) vetting process for instructional materials and includes additional teacher support, parent transparency provisions, and additional funding for SBOE-approved materials and the printing of state-owned materials.

Other notable provisions address the addition of a required SBOE-developed vocabulary and book list as part of the English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) TEKS, grant program supports, and a prohibition on three-cueing in early literacy instruction.

SBOE Vetting Process Changes for Instructional Materials

HB 1605 expands SBOE authority to establish a process and criteria for the review and approval of instructional materials, supported by TEA, and repeals prior law authorizing a TEA instructional materials portal and quality reviews. The bill also requires TEA to develop open education resource materials subject to SBOE approval.

The new Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process expands SBOE's authority to set the minimum required percentage of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) coverage at any percentage determined by the SBOE, up to 100 percent.

Materials will be reviewed based on the following SBOE-approved criteria:

- Minimum TEKS coverage, free from factual errors
- Quality
- No-three-cueing
- Suitability for grade levels and subjects
- No obscene or harmful content, including compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), TEC 28.0022, and Penal Code 43.22
- Physical and electronic specifications
- Parent portal compliance

HB 1605 requires that the SBOE maintain a list of approved instructional materials. Districts are exempt from a competitive procurement process if procuring materials from the SBOE-approved materials list. It also eliminates the 8-year proclamation and adoption cycle for instructional materials.

Teacher Support

Teachers often must create or spend time choosing their own instructional materials.

HB 1605 will help teachers save time by providing ready-made materials, including written lesson plans. Under HB 1605, teachers cannot be required to use bi-weekly planning time to create initial instructional materials unless they have a **41**

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Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 23, 2023

Rulemaking

- SBOE and Commissioner rules related to the approval and distribution of instructional materials will need to be implemented for this bill.
- State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) rules related to educator preparation will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

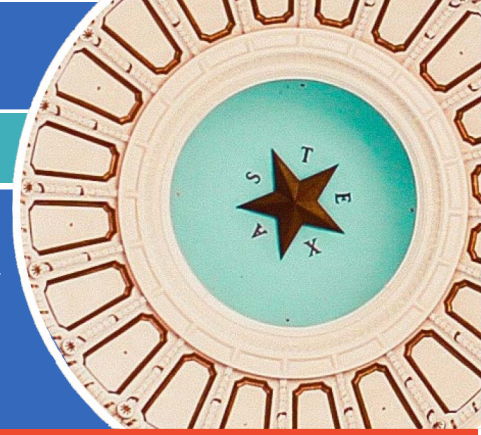
- Support SBOE in the creation and implementation of the new IMRA process.
- Advise the SBOE for required vocabulary lists and booklists.
- Develop the process and criteria for local instructional materials reviews and assist SBOE in related rulemaking.
- Develop open education resource (OER or state-owned) instructional materials in certain grades & subjects and submit to SBOE for approval.
- Create a grant program to support local transition plan implementation for the adoption of OER by local districts.

House Bill 1605

Relating to instructional material and technology, the adoption of essential knowledge and skills for certain public school foundation curriculum subjects, and the extension of additional state aid to school districts for the provision of certain instructional materials.

Author: Representative Brad Buckley

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton



supplemental duty agreement. This legislation also offers grant-supported optional teacher training on open education resource materials, helping to train them on their knowledge of available instructional materials.

Parent Transparency

HB 1605 requires publishers to offer online parent portals for instructional materials transparency. It requires that local school systems establish an instructional material review process under rules set by SBOE. Local curriculum reviews can be initiated by parent requests and grant funding is available to support local education agencies (LEAs) in completing the reviews.

Additional Funding

HB 1605 establishes two new Foundation School Program (FSP) entitlements for LEAs to purchase SBOE-approved materials in addition to the traditional Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA). This amounts to an additional \$40 per student for districts using an approved SBOE material and \$20 per student for districts printing approved open education resource materials. These new funds cannot be accessed until the SBOE establishes the new IMRA process and approves materials in that process. Separately, the IMTA funding was restored in House Bill 1 (88R) to traditional levels (roughly \$1 billion per biennium).

New state aid for instructional materials is available beginning September 1, 2023. Updated teacher contract requirements apply beginning with the 2024–25 school year.

**HB 3991**

Relating to Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day in public schools.

Author: Representative Carrie Isaac

Sponsor: Senator Carol Alvarado

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3991](#) (HB 3991) designates Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day as the first Friday of April in public schools, and requires appropriate instruction in school districts, as determined by each district.

Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day is meant to promote awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables and to encourage students to consume more of both during Fruit and Vegetable Month.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

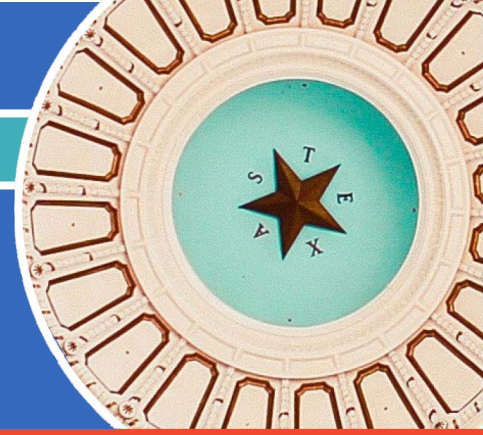
- June 12, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 4375

Relating to instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator in public schools.

Author: Representative Gary VanDeaver

Sponsor: Senator Charles Perry

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4375](#) (HB 4375) adds automated external defibrillators (AED) instruction to existing requirements that districts provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. School districts and open-enrollment charter schools are required to provide instruction on the use of an AED for students in grades 7-12 in addition to the existing requirement for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction.

TEA is permitted to accept donations, including the donations of equipment, for use in providing CPR instruction to students and requires the agency to distribute those donations to school districts for providing CPR instruction to students. HB 4375 adds AED to this section of the TEC.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) is required to adopt rules for instruction in the use of an AED for students in grades 7-12.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 11, 2023

Rulemaking

- The State Board of Education will need to amend rules to include the use of AED in CPR instruction.

Other Actions Required

- TEA may accept donations and distribute those to school districts for this purpose.



SB 2124

Relating to an advanced mathematics program for public school students in middle school.

Author: Senator Brandon Creighton

Sponsor: Representative Donna Howard



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2124](#) (SB 2124) requires each school district and open-enrollment charter school to develop an advanced mathematics program for middle school students that is designed to enable those students to enroll in Algebra I in eighth grade.

School districts and open-enrollment charter schools must automatically enroll each sixth grade student in an advanced math course based on the following criteria:

- Student performed in the top 40 percent on the fifth grade STAAR mathematics assessment; or
- Student performed in the top 40 percent on a local measure that includes the student's fifth grade ranking or a demonstrated proficiency in the student's fifth grade mathematics coursework.

Parents or guardians of a student may opt the student out of automatic enrollment in an advanced mathematics program.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

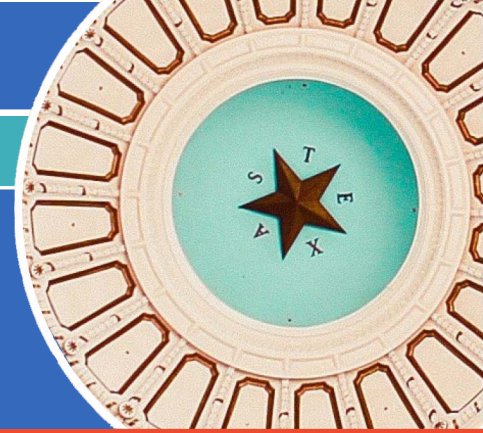
- May 27, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Commissioner of Education may adopt rules to implement this statute.

Other Actions Required

- School districts and open-enrollment charter schools will be required to develop a middle school advanced math program, if one is not already established.



HB 1615

Relating to strategies to increase the availability of child-care and prekindergarten programs.

Author: Representative Angie Chen Button
Sponsor: Senator Brian Birdwell

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1615](#) (HB 1615) establishes strategies to increase the availability of childcare and prekindergarten programs through prekindergarten partnerships. HB 1615 creates a childcare professional development scholarship program.

The bill requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish and administer a prekindergarten partnership program. The purpose of this program is to assist child-care providers who meet the definition of an eligible private provider in partnering with local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide the free prekindergarten classes for eligible children.

The bill also requires TWC to use existing funds to coordinate with the TEA to develop joint strategies that expand the availability of prekindergarten partnership programs. TWC is required to use funds appropriated to establish and administer a professional development scholarship program for current and prospective child-care workers.

HB 1615 requires at least one of the members of an appointed local workforce development board to have expertise in child care or early childhood education, in addition to the qualifications currently listed.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

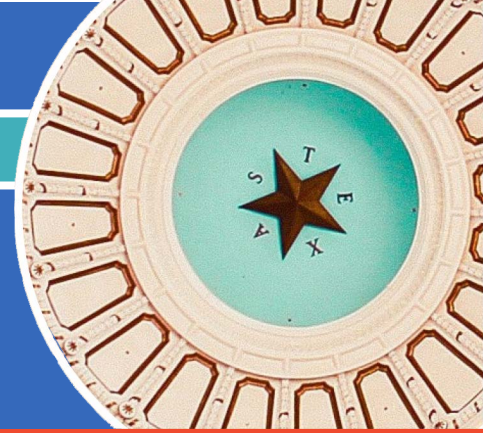
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2729

Relating to teacher requirements for high quality prekindergarten programs.

Author: Representative Cody Harris

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2729](#) (HB 2729) clarifies certification and qualifications for prekindergarten (PreK) program staff for open-enrollment charter schools, school districts, and entities contracted with schools to operate PreK programs.

HB 2729 adds an associate or baccalaureate degree in early childhood education or a related field to the list of additional qualifications for PreK program teachers. This legislation also adds eight years of teaching experience in a Texas Rising Star program to the qualification list in addition to eight years of teaching experience in a nationally accredited child care program.

This bill requires PreK program teachers who teach in a contracted PreK classroom to have at least one of the following:

- An associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field
- At least two years' experience of teaching in a nationally accredited child care program or a Texas Rising Star Program and
 - a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or another early childhood education credential approved by the agency; or
 - certification offered through a training center accredited by Association Montessori International or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education
- At least 8 years of experience of teaching in a nationally accredited childcare program or a Texas Rising Star Program
- Employment as a PreK teacher in a school district that has received approval from the commissioner for the district's PreK-specific instructional training plan that the teacher uses in the PreK classroom
- An equivalent qualification

Each PreK classroom teacher who teaches for an entity contracted with or by a school to provide PreK must be supervised by a person with an educator certification and who meets a qualification under the high-quality prekindergarten provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC).

HB 2729 permits a person who supervises a PreK partnership program to supervise multiple PreK classes to ensure programmatic compliance and support classroom instruction, the developmental needs of students, and continuous quality improvement including professional development.

HB 2729 also requires an entity with which the district contracts to provide a PreK program to attempt to maintain the ratio of not less than one qualified teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students.

The newly added provisions related to qualifications for teachers of contracted PreK classes expire on September 1, 2029. 47

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 108

Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for certain classroom teachers and retired classroom teachers; imposing a fee.

Author: Representative Philip Cortez

Sponsor: Senator José Menéndez

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 108](#) (HB 108) requires the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (the department) to issue a specialty license plate for teachers with at least 15 years of service and for retired teachers with at least 20 years of service in consultation with the TEA.

The license plates must include the words "Texas Teacher" or "Retired Texas Teacher" and depict a Texas public education logo. The department shall design the license plates in consultation with the TEA.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

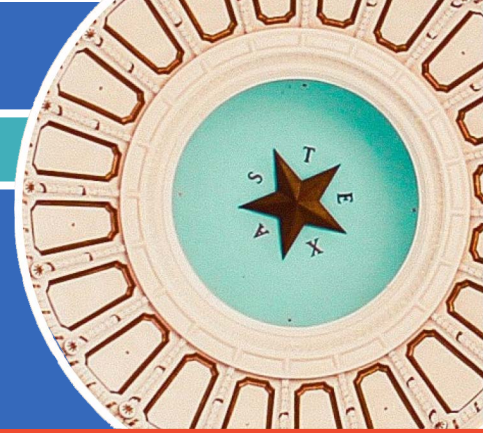
- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 621

Relating to creating a temporary certification to teach career and technology education for certain military service members and first responders.

Author: Representative Matt Shaheen

Sponsor: Senator Bryan Hughes



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 621](#) (HB 621) creates a temporary certificate for certain military veterans and qualifying first responders to teach career and technology education (CTE) courses. An individual who qualifies for this temporary certificate must have served in:

- The armed forces of the United States, and must have been honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty; or
- As a first responder, defined as a peace officer, a fire protection personnel, or emergency medical services personnel.

The State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) will propose rules for the issuance of a temporary certificate to teach CTE courses if the service member meets the qualifications listed above and all other eligibility requirements for standard certification to teach CTE.

If needed, military service members may utilize the following substitutions to meet qualifications for a standard certification to teach CTE:

- An associate's degree for 48 months of active duty military service; or
- A bachelor's degree for an associate degree and 48 months of active duty military service, and 60 semester credit hours with a minimum 2.50 grade point average.

The temporary certificate issued is valid for no more than three years, is limited to a one-time issuance, and cannot be renewed. Those individuals that are issued a temporary certificate under HB 621 are eligible to receive a standard certificate if he or she meets all eligibility requirements for that credential the individual is seeking.

School districts must require a new employee with a temporary certificate under HB 621 provisions obtain at least 20 hours of classroom management training, unless the new employee has documented experience as an instructor or training during the individual's require 48 months of active military service or service as a first responder. Additionally, a school district is required to assign a mentor teacher to a classroom teacher who receives a temporary certificate under this provision for at least two school years.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- State Board of Educator Certification will create rules for a temporary certification for certain military veterans or qualifying first responders.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 4520

Relating to employment and retirement consequences of an educator convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for the sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor.

Author: Representative Cody Harris

Sponsor: Senator Paul Bettencourt



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4520](#) (HB 4520) adds to the list of offenses for which a person's SBEC certificate is automatically revoked, and the person becomes ineligible for retirement annuity.

This bill adds the conviction or deferred adjudication from the Texas Penal Code 43.24 to the Code of Criminal Procedure and Education Code.

This bill also adds the sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor as a qualifying felony under the Penal Code. The updated list of qualifying felonies for this section of the Penal Code include:

- Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual;
- Improper relationship between educator and student;
- Sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault; and
- Sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

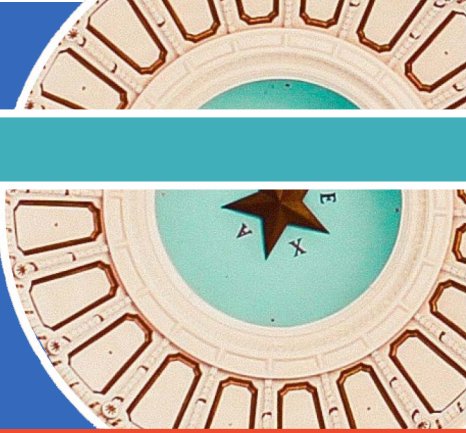
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- State Board for Educator Certification rules regarding certification requirements will be amended (19 Texas Admin Code chapter 249).

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 422

Relating to the authority of certain military service members to engage in a business or occupation in this state.

Author: Senator Angela Paxton

Sponsor: Representative Terry M. Wilson

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 422](#) (SB 422) adds references to “military service member” or “member” to the provisions already in place for military spouses to use a licensure from another state, in good standing and substantially equivalent to a licensure in Texas, to engage in a business or occupation in this state. The military service member must notify the licensing agency of intent to practice in this state and submit the required documentation in order to receive confirmation from the state licensing agency that he or she is authorized to engage in the business or occupation.

The bill also adds “military service member” and provides additional clarification to provisions already in place for military spouses to engage in the business or occupation only for the period during which the military service member or the military spouse is stationed at a military installation in Texas. This is not to exceed three years from the date he or she received confirmation from the licensing agency. The bill also clarifies that in the event of a divorce, or similar event that affects a person’s status as a military spouse, the spouse may continue to engage in the business or occupation under the authority of this section until the third anniversary of the date the spouse received confirmation described by the bill.

State agencies are required to adopt rules to verify information submitted by a military service member or military spouse not later than the 30th day after the date of submission and add “military service member” to provisions already established for military spouses regarding use of licensure from another state.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

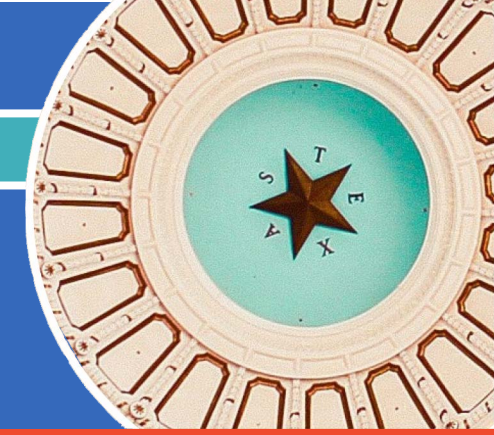
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill no later than December 1, 2023.

Other Actions Required

- Agency website will be updated according to this statute.



SB 544

Relating to the issuance of a temporary teaching certificate to and requirements regarding educator certification for certain persons with experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force.

Author: Senator César Blanco

Sponsor: Representative Joe Moody

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 544](#) (SB 544) requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules for the creation of a temporary certification to certain persons with experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force.

The SBEC rules should include provisions to credit the person's education, training, and clinical or professional experience as an instructor for the Community College of the Air Force towards the requirements for the completion of an Educator Preparation Program. This includes requirements regarding coursework, field-based experience, or clinical experience.

This temporary certificate issued as a result of SB 544 is valid for one year from the date of issuance.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- SBEC rulemaking will be required for individuals with at least two semesters experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force.
- SBEC rules should include provisions to credit the individual for specific experience in Community College of the Air Force for their EPP requirements.

Other Actions Required

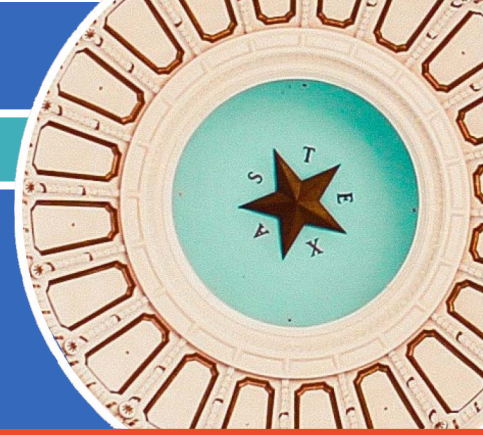
- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 1297

Relating to vision screenings for students in public or private school.

Author: Representative Harold Dutton

Sponsor: Senator Brian Birdwell



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1297](#) (HB 1297) allows for an “electronic eye chart” to be used in lieu of a printed eye chart when screening students for visual disorders.

Prior to HB 1297, the Health and Safety Code required the Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules requiring that students in public or private schools be screened for visual disorders using photo screening. An electronic eye chart, which now may be used, is defined as any computerized device or other electronic system, device, or method of displaying on an electronic screen medically accepted and properly sized optotypes. These optotypes may be letters, numbers, or symbols to assess an individual’s visual acuity.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

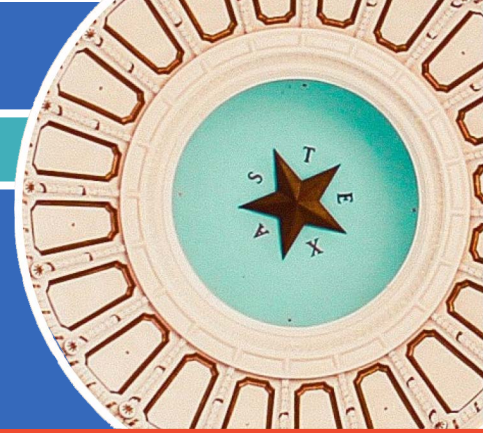
- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 1488

Relating to sickle cell disease health care improvement and the sickle cell task force.

Author: Representative Toni Rose

Sponsor: Senator Borris Miles



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1488](#) (HB 1488) adds a member of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to the state's Sickle Cell Task Force. The Sickle Cell Task Force is composed of the following members appointed by the Health and Human Services Commissioner:

- two members from community-based organizations that address the needs of people with sickle cell disease,
- two physicians specializing in hematology;
- three members of the public who either have sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait or are the parent of a child with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait,
- one representative of a health-related institution;
- one representative from the TEA,
- one representative from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC),
- one physician with experience addressing the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait,
- one researcher from a public health-related or academic institution who has experience working with sickle cell disease,
- And one health care professional with experience addressing the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait; and
- One health care professional with experience addressing the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait.

This task force will work with the HHSC to include in the Task Force's annual report recommendations for improving sickle cell disease education for health care providers.

In addition to participating in the Task Force, the TEA is tasked with collaborating with sickle cell disease community-based organizations to provide information on this disease and its trait to public school districts and their staff, to the extent it is possible. The Sickle Cell Disease Task Force and the HHSC will collaborate on methods for improving sickle cell disease education and awareness within public schools. These entities will provide recommendations to the TEA on these improvement methods.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

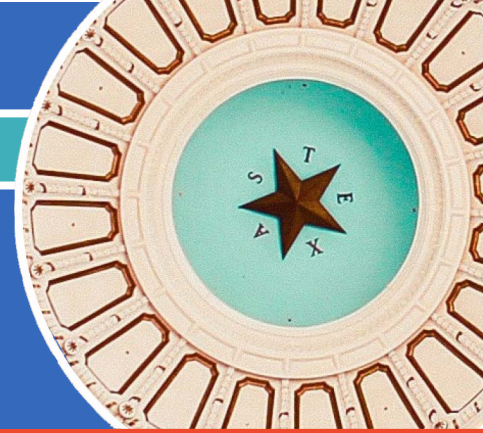
- The TEA will appoint a member of the TEA to join the Task Force;
- The TEA will provide information to school districts on sickle cell disease and its trait, to the extent possible; and
- The TEA will receive recommendations from the Task Force and HHSC on improvements for public school awareness of this disease and its trait.

SB 29

Relating to prohibited governmental entity implementation or enforcement of a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or private business or school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Author: Senator Brian Birdwell

Sponsor: Representative J.M. Lozano

**Bill Summary:**

[Senate Bill 29](#) (SB 29) amends the Health and Safety Code (HSC) to prohibit a governmental entity, including local educational agencies and private schools, from implementing or enforcing a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or private business or school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with some exceptions.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

Senate Bill 294

Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors and medication designated for treatment of respiratory distress on public and private school campuses.

Author: Senator Nathan Johnson

Sponsor: Representative Stephanie Klick

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 294](#) (SB 294) changes references from “asthma medication” to “medication for respiratory distress” in the Texas Health and Safety Code. SB 294 allows a school to adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of medication for respiratory distress. This bill authorizes the advisory committee authorized under existing law to advise the Commissioner of the State Health Services Commission on new training requirements for school personnel and volunteers in the administration of necessary medication for respiratory distress as well as storage of these medications. If a local policy is adopted, the policy must permit individuals who are authorized and trained to administer medication to a person reasonably believed to be experiencing respiratory distress on a school campus or at a school-related activity, on or off school property.

No later than 10 business days after administering medication to a person a school must submit a report to the school district or governing body of a school, the physician who prescribed the medication, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The required report must include the age of the person who received the medication; whether the person who received the medication was a student, member of school personnel, volunteer, or visitor; dosage of administered medication; the title of the person who administered the medication, and any other information requested by the Commissioner of Education.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- May 24, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

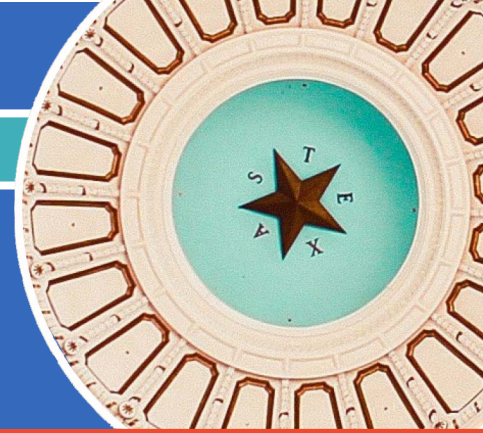
- Schools must provide a report to the Commissioner of State Health Services after administering the medication.

SB 629

Relating to the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists on public and private school campuses and to the permissible uses of money appropriated to a state agency from the opioid abatement account.

Author: Senator José Menéndez

Sponsor: Representative James Talarico



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 629](#) (SB 629) requires each school district to adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists. This policy is required at each campus in the district that serves students in grades 6 through 12. This bill permits districts to adopt and implement such a policy at each campus in the district serving students in grades 6 and below. SB 629 permits an open-enrollment charter school to adopt and implement a policy under this section.

This bill defines “opioid antagonist” and “opioid-related drug overdose” to have the meanings assigned by Health and Safety Code §483.101. An opioid antagonist means any drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or otherwise inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors. An opioid-related drug overdose means a condition, evidenced by symptoms such as extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, constriction of the pupils, respiratory depression, or coma, that a layperson would reasonably believe to be the result of the consumption or use of an opioid.

A policy adopted under this section must:

- provide that school personnel and school volunteers who are authorized and trained may administer an opioid antagonist to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose;
- require that each school campus subject to a policy have one or more school personnel members or school volunteers authorized and trained to administer an opioid antagonist present during regular school hours;
- establish the number of opioid antagonists that must be available at each campus at any given time; and
- require that the supply of opioid antagonists at each school be stored in a secure location and be easily accessible to school personnel authorized and trained to administer them.

This bill also permits a physician or person who has been delegated prescriptive authority to prescribe opioid antagonists in the name of a school district, charter school, or private school.

This bill establishes immunity from liability, which states that a person, who in good faith, takes or fails to take, any action under this subchapter is immune from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action resulting from that action or failure to act.

Schools with a policy on the administration of opioid antagonists are required to report certain information no later than the 10th business day, after the date a school personnel member or a school volunteer administers an opioid antagonist.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

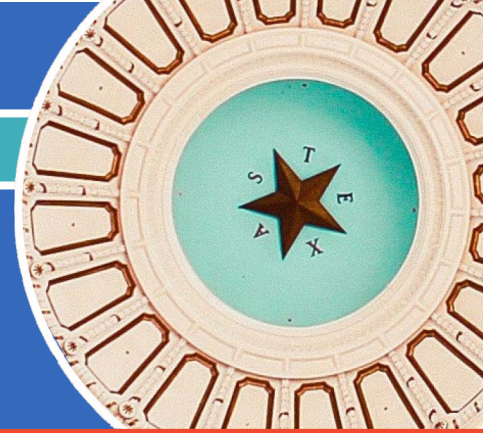
- A school district is not required to establish a policy prior to January 1, 2024.

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of Education rulemaking regarding this new policy, including checking inventory for expiration dates and training requirements will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 1506

Relating to a seizure management and treatment plan for the care to be provided by a public school to a student with a seizure disorder.

Author: Senator Bryan Hughes

Sponsor: Representative Travis Clardy

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1506](#) (SB 1506) requires the TEA to adopt and post a form on the TEA website for parents and guardians to use when submitting a seizure management plan that is reviewed by the student's school district. A parent may submit to a school district a student's seizure management and treatment plan, developed by the student's parent or guardian and physician responsible for this plan.

The following must be included on the form that TEA posts on the agency's website:

1. The student's name and date of birth
2. The names & contact information of students' parent/ guardian, physician responsible for seizure treatment, and at least one other emergency contact
3. Any medical history significant to the student's seizure disorder
4. The type, length, and frequency of student's seizures
5. A description of each type of seizure the student has experienced
6. The student's seizure triggers and warning signs
7. The student's ability to manage seizures and the student's level of understanding of the seizures
8. The student's response after a seizure
9. The basic first aid provided to the student during a seizure, including whether the student needs to leave the classroom after a seizure and the process for the student's return to the classroom, if applicable
10. A description of what constitutes a seizure emergency for the student
11. A description of seizure emergency protocol for district personnel to follow in the event of a seizure emergency for the student
12. A treatment protocol for any medications or other procedures to be administered by district personnel to the student during school hours, including the name and dosage of each daily or emergency medication and the time at which the medication is to be given, common side effects for the medication, and any special instructions; and whether the student has a vagus nerve stimulator and, if so, appropriate magnet use for the stimulator
13. Any special considerations or precautions applicable to the student
14. The signatures of the student's parent/ guardian and the physician responsible for the student's seizure treatment

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- May 27, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- TEA must adopt and post a form on the agency's website for the seizure management plan information no later than December 1, 2023.

HB 63

Relating to reports of child abuse or neglect and certain preliminary investigations of those reports.

Author: Representative Valorie Swanson

Sponsor: Senator Royce West



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 63](#) (HB 63) adds to the list of required information that individuals must provide when reporting allegations of child abuse and neglect. In addition to the name and address of the child and person responsible for the child's care, the individual must now include the facts that caused the individual to believe the child has been abused or neglected as well as the individual's name and phone number. The individual must also now provide his or her home address, or, if the individual making the report is a professional that is required to report child abuse and neglect within 48 hours, must include the person's business address and profession. Any person receiving a report of abuse and neglect must use the person's best efforts to obtain all of the required information. If an individual is reporting abuse or neglect through the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) toll free number, and the individual refuses to give his or her name and phone number, the DFPS representative receiving the report must notify the individual that the DFPS is not authorized to accept an anonymous report, the individual's identity is kept confidential with limited exception, and the individual can report this abuse or neglect to a local or state law enforcement agency. If a report of child abuse or neglect is made orally – whether it is to DFPS or a local or state law enforcement agency – the person receiving the report must audio record the report and notify the individual making the report that the report is being recorded and that making a false report is a crime.

DFPS must adopt rules to ensure that the identity of an individual who makes a report of child abuse or neglect remains confidential unless a DFPS employee is working directly on a case involving the child who is the subject of a report, an employee who is directly supervising an employee who is working on a case involving the child, or for a legitimate professional interest.

If an anonymous report is made to a local or state law enforcement agency and the agency refers the report to DFPS, DFPS will do a preliminary investigation. Before DFPS can take any action based on an anonymous report, the representative must provide to the parent or other person under investigation information about the representative's identity, a summary of the DFPS procedures related to investigations, and a reasonable time for the person to review the summary.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) will adopt rules around accessing reporting individual's identity.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill. I would imagine 19 TAC 61.1051 might get updated to include the requirement to give professional business address and profession



SB 1527

Relating to human trafficking, including the prosecution and punishment of compelling and solicitation of prostitution and other sexual or assaultive offenses; increasing a criminal penalty; creating a criminal offense.

Author: Senator Joan Huffman

Sponsor: Representative Senfronia Thompson



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1527](#) (SB 1527) introduces changes to the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council established by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). This bill adds two new members, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), to the council. Additionally, it modifies the responsibilities of various agencies and individuals involved in the implementation of the council's strategic plan.

The bill also adds TxDOT and representatives of regional human trafficking task forces or coalitions to the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. The OAG is mandated to evaluate the input and participation of certain task force members annually and appoint new members if necessary.

SB 1527 directly instructs the task force to carry out the list of data collection requirements already listed in statute. Previously, state or local governmental entities and political subdivisions were independently responsible for these data collections and publishing this data.

The bill includes many changes to the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure regarding human trafficking.

The TEA and TxDOT have also been added as agencies with the responsibility to appoint an individual who will coordinate the agency's resources to strengthen state and local efforts in preventing human trafficking, protecting and assisting victims, and investigating and prosecuting offenders.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- TEA will become a member of the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council and must designate a representative to coordinate the agency's resources in preventing human trafficking.

SB 2069

Relating to the required posting of signs regarding human trafficking penalties by certain schools.

Author: Senator Paul Bettencourt

Sponsor: Representative Matt Schaefer

**Bill Summary:**

[Senate Bill 2069](#) (SB 2069) changes the requirements around human trafficking signs posted at primary and secondary schools. Private schools are no longer required to post signs. Additionally, the specific locations at which signs had to be posted have been removed and now requires a sign to be placed in a conspicuous place reasonably likely to be viewed by all school employees and visitors.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

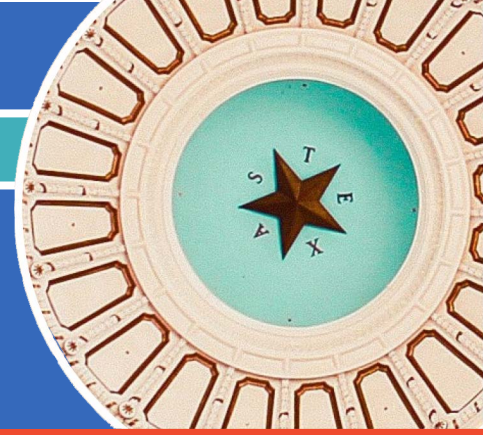
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- There is commissioner rulemaking on human trafficking signs that allow rules previously adopted to be adjusted.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 59

*Relating to child water safety requirements for certain organizations
Authorizing disciplinary action, including an administrative penalty.*

Author: Representative Vikki Goodwin

Sponsor: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 59](#) (HB 59) requires that schools, preschools, kindergartens, nursery schools, child-care facilities, day camps, and youth camps receive parental or guardian affirmation in writing whether a child is able to swim or is at risk of injury or death when swimming. This confirmation is required for children under twelve years old who engage in an organized water activity (wading pool excluded).

These entities must provide and ensure children who are unable to swim or at risk of injury or death when swimming are wearing a properly fitted and fastened personal floatation device. If a child is participating in swim instruction or competition, and is closely supervised, then the entity is not required to provide the floatation devices.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

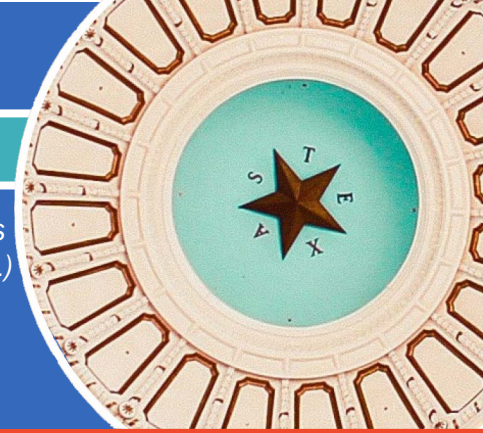
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission may adopt rules as necessary.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 699

Relating to determining the student enrollment of a public school that allows non-enrolled students to participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities for purposes of assigning a UIL classification.

Author: Representative James Frank

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 699](#) (HB 699) instructs the University Interscholastic League (UIL) on how to count student enrollment when assigning league classification. These league classifications for a school can be anywhere from 1A – 6A, based on the student enrollment count. HB 699 requires UIL to use the same enrollment calculation formula to determine enrollment for schools allowing non-enrolled students to participate in league activities as the formula used for a school that does not allow non-enrolled students to participate.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

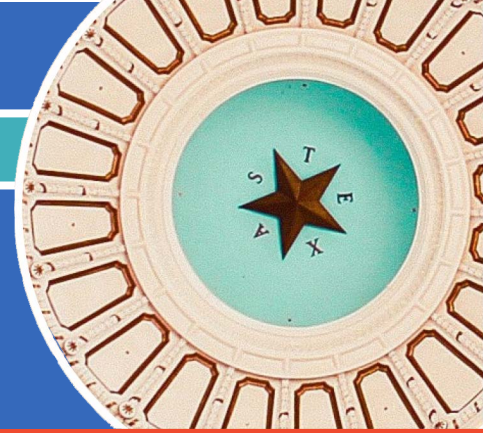
- June 10, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 3917

Relating to dismissal of a complaint alleging a parent contributing to nonattendance on the parent's fulfillment of certain times.

Author: Representative Brad Buckley
Sponsor: Senator Mayes Middleton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3917](#) (HB 3917) adds an additional provision that a charge of “Parent Contributing to Nonattendance” may be dismissed if the parent completes the terms of an agreement entered by the school district and the parent. An extension of the 30 day timeline for completion may be provided to complete the terms of the agreement if the school district agrees to the extension.

The terms of the agreement must be written and must include counseling, training, or another program that the school district designates as necessary. This agreement must be completed within thirty days of the date that the complaint was filed, or as otherwise specified in the written agreement to entitle the complaint to be dismissed.

This added option of dismissal is only in effect for complaints alleged after the effective date of the statute (September 1, 2023).

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

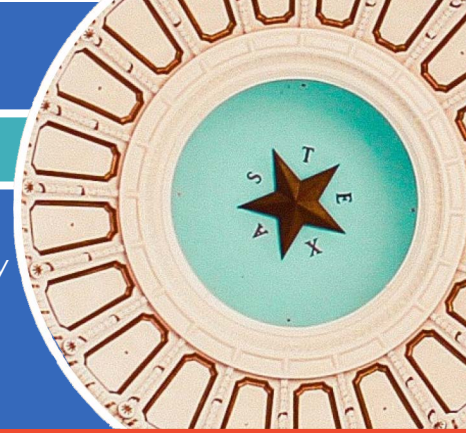
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement standard agreement forms, recommended counseling programs, and required programs, materials, and resources available through the Education Service Centers.

Other Actions Required

- If the Commissioner adopts rules, then TEA may produce materials, including forms and resources necessary as dictated by the rules stated above.



SB 133

Relating to prohibiting the physical restraint of or use of chemical irritants or Tasers on certain public school students by peace officers and school security personnel under certain circumstances.

Author: Senator Royce West

Sponsor: Representative Lacey Hull

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 133](#) (SB 133) prohibits a peace officer who is performing law enforcement duties, or a school security staff member who is performing security related duties, on school property at a school-sponsored event, or at a school-related activity, from restraining or using a chemical irritant spray or a taser on a student enrolled in fifth grade or below. The only exception to this provision is if a student poses a serious risk of harm to the student or another person.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner rulemaking will need to be amended to reflect the changes on student restraints and time-outs.

Other Actions Required

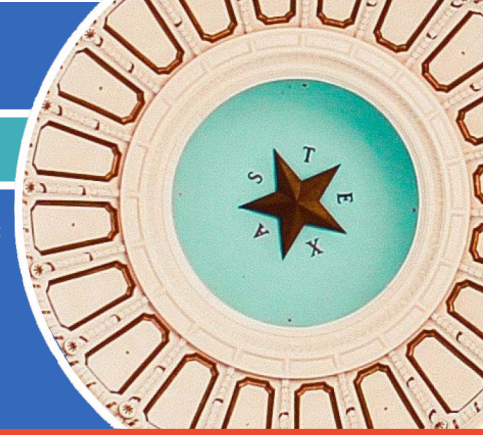
- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 656

Relating to an optional health condition or disability designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate

Author: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Sponsor: Representative Ryan Guillen



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 656](#) (SB 656) provides the option for a person to designate on their driver's license or personal identification certificate a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) may request documentation of the physical or mental health condition from a licensed physician, including a psychiatrist.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

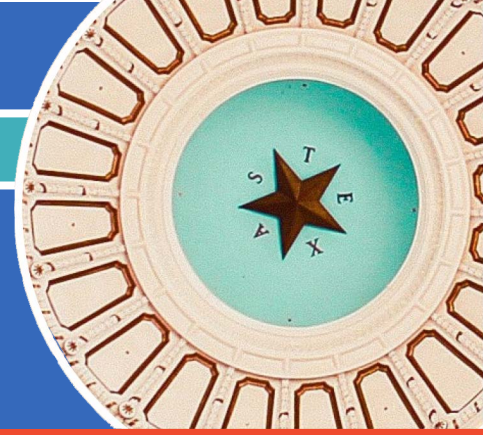
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 1340

Relating to the local development agreement database maintained by the comptroller of public accounts.

Author: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Sponsor: Representative Morgan Meyer

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1340](#) (SB 1340) requires the comptroller to create a database of local development agreements entered by local government entities.

This bill amends Government Code to define a local development agreement to include any agreement entered by local governments, which would include designations of reinvestment zones by school districts.

This bill requires the comptroller to provide a consolidated searchable data tool on its website detailing local development agreements as previously defined. The comptroller would be able to prescribe the form and way in which local government entities would be required to submit information.

This bill requires any taxing units which execute agreements to provide an internet link to the location of the agreement information.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

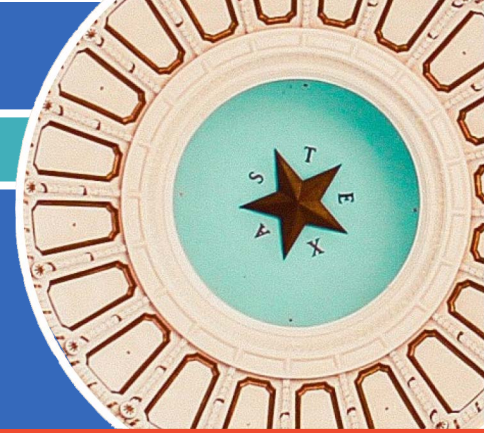
- January 1, 2024

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- The Comptroller will create a searchable tool for local development agreements.



SB 1471

Relating to access by the Texas Education Agency and private schools to certain criminal history records.

Author: Senator Paul Bettencourt

Sponsor: Representative Candy Noble

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1471](#) (SB 1471) This bill provides accredited private schools with access to DPS/FBI criminal history records for an applicant or an employee of a private school

SB 1471 also gives the Texas Education Agency (TEA) access to closed criminal investigation files that relate to a former employee of a private school, accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC).

“Qualified Private School” is defined by this legislation. Access is limited to accredited private schools who provide instruction in Texas for K-12 students and are determined to be eligible by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) These qualified private schools are now provided with the option and specific authority to fingerprint their employees and subscribe to results in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Clearinghouse. SB 1471 also allows private schools to utilize TEA’s existing systems to enroll employees for fingerprinting.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

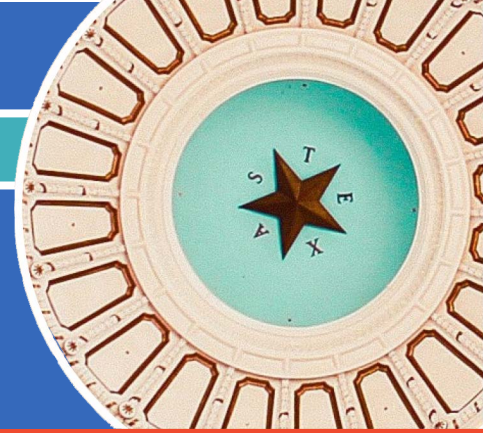
- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 1647

Relating to dropout recovery education programs.

Author: Senator Tan Parker

Sponsor: Representative Cole Hefner

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1647](#) (SB 1647) permits school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to use private or public community-based dropout recovery education program. These programs may serve as an alternative education program for students at-risk of dropping out of school. This legislation outlines the requirements for dropout recovery education programs, certification requirements for teachers in the program, as well as funding for students who attend these programs.

SB 1647 changes the statute to allow open-enrollment charter schools, in addition to the existing school districts, to use a private or public community-based dropout recovery education program. School districts and charter schools are permitted to use an education management organization to provide alternative education programs for students at-risk of dropping out of school. These programs may be offered in-person at a campus, remotely, or through a hybrid or in-person and remote instruction. Remote or hybrid programs must operate an in-person student engagement center at a location suitable for high school students.

Requirements for an in-person dropout education recovery program are as follows:

- At least four hours of instruction time per day;
- Employ faculty and administrators with bachelors or advanced degrees;
- Provide at least one instructor per 28 students;
- Satisfactory performance according to alternative education program requirements; and
- Must comply with the title and associated rules.

Requirements for a remote or hybrid program:

- Provide credentials, certifications or other course offerings related to employment opportunities;
- Employ faculty and administrators with bachelors or advanced degrees;
- Provide an academic coach or advocate for each student;
- Use individual learning plans to monitor student progress;
- Establish requirements for satisfactory performance by month according to commissioner set standards;
- Provide monthly student progress reports to the student's school;
- Satisfactory performance according to alternative education program requirements;
- SB 1647 adds a requirement to operate an in-person engagement center at a location that is appropriate for high school students; and
- Must comply with the title and associated rules. **(Continued on next page)**

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 1647

Relating to dropout recovery education programs.

Author: Senator Tan Parker

Sponsor: Representative Cole Hefner



New requirements for a dropout recovery program are as follows:

- May be operated only by an entity that is accredited by TEA or a regional accrediting agency;
- Must offer or provide referrals for mental health services to students enrolled in the program; and
- May not market directly to students enrolled in a traditional education program.

School districts and open-enrollment charter schools are permitted to operate one campus-based dropout recovery education program for all students in the district or school. A school counselor or charter school administrator is able to refer a student to a dropout recovery program if the counselor or administrator determines the program could prevent the student from dropping out of school.

There is a new requirement for school districts or open-enrollment charter schools to post a report on measurable outcomes for each dropout recovery education program offered by the district or school on the district's or school's website. This report must include the percentage of students enrolled in the program during the preceding school year who attained each of the following outcomes:

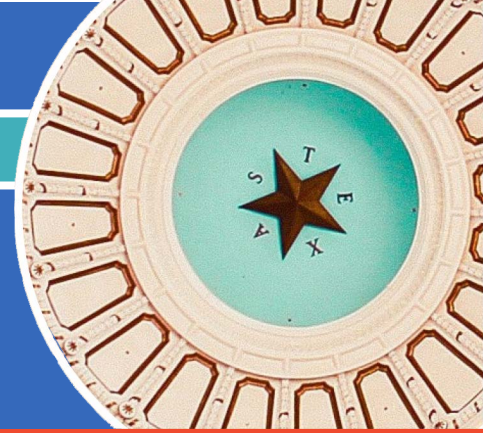
- Transfer to a traditional education program;
- Successful completion of the program;
- Dual credit; and
- A credential of value.

The commissioner is required to include a student who successfully completes a course offered through a private or public community-based dropout recovery education program in the computation of the district's average daily attendance for funding purposes. For a student who successfully completes a remote course offered through the program, the commissioner is required to include the student in the computation of the district's or school's average daily attendance with an attendance rate equal to:

- 1) The district's or school's average attendance rate for students successfully completing a course offered in person under the program; or
- 2) If the district or school does not offer courses in person under the program, the statewide average attendance rate for students successfully completing a course offered in person under the program.

An entity that operates a dropout recovery education program may administer an assessment instrument on any date selected by the entity that falls within a testing window established, in accordance with Texas Education Code 39.023 (c-3), for the administration of the assessment instrument.





SB 1849

Relating to an interagency reportable conduct search engine, standards for a person's removal from the employee misconduct registry and eligibility for certification as certain Texas Juvenile Justice Department officers and employees, and the use of certain information by certain state agencies to conduct background checks.

Author: Senator Lois Kolkhorst

Sponsor: Representative Candy Noble

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1849](#) (SB 1849) creates an Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine that contains a list of individuals against whom a finding of reportable conduct has been made by Department of Family Protective Service (DFPS), Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), or the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These agencies are required to make a determination about whether the reportable conduct would make a person ineligible for employment, licensure, and/or contracted services. This legislation requires these agencies to provide access to entities under the agencies' regulatory purview.

SB 1849 establishes the "Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine." The purpose of this search engine is for participating agency employees to search information on reportable conduct, as defined by each participating agency's rules. The TEA defines "reportable conduct" as conduct that would warrant placement on the Do Not Hire Registry." Specifically, this includes findings that a person engaged in child abuse or otherwise committed a criminal act with a minor, solicited a romantic relationship or engaged in sexual contact with a student/minor, or was convicted or placed on deferred adjudication for offenses under Texas Education Code (TEC) 22.085.

Each participating agency may extend additional users of this search engine to be controlling persons, hiring managers, or administrators of related entities. For the TEA, the extension of using the search engine includes the following entities:

- Independent school districts, districts of innovation, open-enrollment charter schools, and other charter entities;
- Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs), education shared services arrangements, or other educational entities authorized to access the registry;
- Qualifying private schools; and
- Nonprofit teacher organizations approved by the commissioner of education for the purpose of participating in the tutoring program established under Section 33.913 of the TEC.

Individuals who are added to the Do Not Hire Registry because of being found on the search engine by the Texas Education Agency will receive due process hearing under TEC 22.094 and Commissioner Rule. Applicants for teaching certification will be subject to requirements of the State Board of Education Certification (SBEC) rule and any revisions made pursuant to SB 1849.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

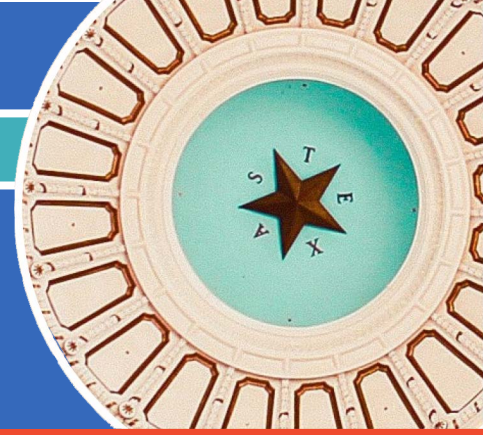
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of Education rules will be updated with the procedures for using the interagency reportable conduct search engine.
- State Board for Educator Certification rules will be updated regarding requirements for certification.

Other Actions Required

- The Department of Information Resources will coordinate the development of the search engine.



SB 1854

Relating to optional group benefits for dental and vision care under the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program.

Author: Senator Angela Paxton

Sponsor: Representative Stand Lambert

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1854](#) (SB 1854) requires the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program to offer optional vision and dental coverage.

This bill requires the board of trustees to establish or contract for, under the group program, an optional dental and vision plan for retirees, dependents, surviving spouses, and surviving dependent children.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

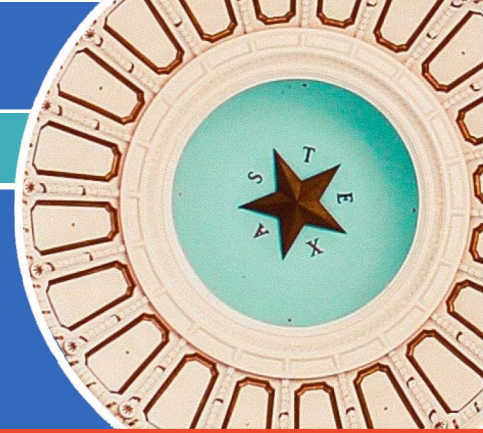
- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 3

Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.

Author: Representative Dustin Burrows

Sponsor: Senator Robert Nichols

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3](#) (HB 3) requires regional education service centers (ESCs) to act as a school safety resource in development and implementation of multihazard emergency operations plans, the establishment of a school safety and security committees, conducting emergency drills and exercises, and addressing campus security deficiencies. Additionally, ESCs must assist the regional safety review team, as necessary.

Open-enrollment charter schools are subject to school safety requirements outlined in Texas Education Code, Sections 37.0814, 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.1083, 37.1084, 37.1085, 37.1086, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.1141, 37.115, 37.207, 37.2071, and Subchapter J, Chapter 37.

HB 3 requires all school district employees who regularly interact with students to complete an evidence-based mental health training program. The training must be completed as follows:

1. at least 25 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year;
2. at least 50 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year;
3. at least 75 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year; and
4. 100 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2028-2029 school year

This legislation requires that a parent or other person with legal control of a child, under a court order, enrolls the child in a public school, they must provide the school a copy of records from the child's prior school, including a copy of the child's disciplinary record and any threat assessment involving their behavior. In the case of a transfer, the district of residence shall provide these records to the new school.

HB 3 requires school district peace officers or school resource officers to complete an active shooter response training program approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) every four years.

Statute now requires a board of trustees to ensure that at least one armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus. If a board is unable to comply with this requirement, the board may claim a good cause exception. **(Continued on next page)**

Impact of Legislation

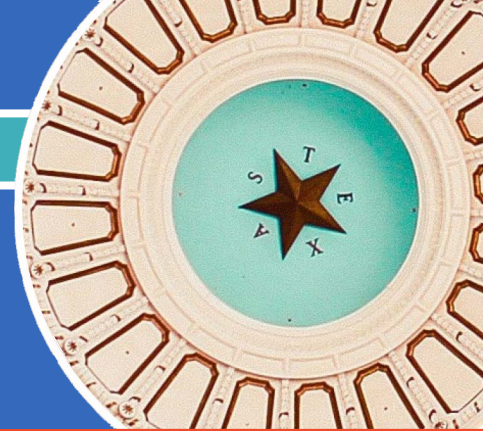
Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Commissioner shall adopt or amend rules, as necessary, to ensure school facilities provide a secure and safe environment.
- The Commissioner shall adopt rules related to an allotment for each school district that reimburses travel and training for employees completing required mental health courses.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules, as necessary, regarding the implementation and operation of school safety and security, including requirements with which a district must comply to receive funding or grants available.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules regarding the confidentiality of documents that relate to safety and security requirements.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules regarding safety and security requirements with which a school district must comply to receive funding or grant money available for the purpose of improving school safety.





HB 3

Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.

Author: Representative Dustin Burrows

Sponsor: Senator Robert Nichols

HB 3 requires TEA to monitor the implementation and operation of requirements related to school district safety and security. Additionally, the agency must establish an office of school safety and security to coordinate the monitoring of school district safety and security requirements. In implementing this requirement, the agency must conduct a detailed vulnerability assessment of each school district. These assessments will be done on a random basis, as determined by the agency, once every four years. Documents or information collected, identified, developed, or produced relating to the monitoring of school district safety and security requirements are confidential.

This legislation requires the office of school safety and security to establish a school safety review team in each region served by an ESC. These teams must conduct on-site general intruder detection audits of campuses in their region annually.

The agency, in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), ESCs, educators who work with students with disabilities, and advocacy groups, is required to establish guidelines for certain multihazard emergency operations plan provisions, specifically those that will better ensure the safety of students and staff with disabilities.

HB 3 requires the board of trustees of each school district to establish a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to serve at each campus of the district and shall adopt policies and procedures for the teams. These policies include establishing a clear procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by the team.

Each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to provide the Department of Public Safety and all appropriate local law enforcement agencies and emergency first responders an accurate map of each district campus and school building. Additionally, first responders must be afforded an opportunity to conduct walk-throughs of facilities using the map provided.

Additionally, at least once every five years, the TxSSC is required to review the facilities standards for instructional facilities.

School districts must ensure that each district facility complies with each school facilities standard, including performance standards and operational requirements, related to safety and security. **(Continued on next page)**

Other Actions Required

- The agency shall develop model standards for providing notice regarding violent activity that has occurred or is being investigated.
- The agency, or if designated by the agency, the Texas School Safety Center, shall establish and publish a directory of approved vendors of school safety technology and equipment.
- The agency shall use a rubric developed by the office of school safety and security in collaboration with the Texas School Safety Center to conduct vulnerability assessments.
- The agency is required to establish guidelines for certain multi-hazard emergency operations plan provisions, specifically those that will better ensure the safety of students and staff with disabilities.



HB 3

Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.

Author: Representative Dustin Burrows

Sponsor: Senator Robert Nichols

The commissioner may authorize a school district to use money provided to the district for the purpose of improving school safety and security, including the school safety allotment or any other funding or grant money available to the district for that purpose, to comply with the facilities standard requirements.

The proceeds of bonds issued by a school district for the construction and equipment of school buildings in the district and the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings, may be used to pay the costs associated with complying with school safety and security requirements.

A school district is entitled to an annual allotment equal to the sum of the following amounts or a greater [in the] amount provided by appropriation:

1. \$10 for each student in average daily attendance, plus \$1 for each student in average daily attendance per every \$50 by which the district's maximum basic allotment exceeds \$6,160, prorated as necessary; and
2. \$15,000 per campus.

The agency may designate certain technologies that a school district, in using funds allocated under this annual allotment, may purchase only from a vendor approved by the agency.

All suspicious activity reports and school safety reports included in the iWatchTexas community reporting system are confidential.

HB 3 requires the sheriff of a county with a total population of less than 350,000 in which a public school is located shall call and conduct semiannual school safety meetings. The sheriff is required to submit a report to the Texas School Safety Center identifying the attendees of the meeting and the subjects discussed.



HB 114

Relating to the possession, use, or delivery of marihuana or e-cigarettes on or near public school property at certain school events.

Author: Representative Ed Thompson

Sponsor: Senator Tan Parker

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 114](#) (HB 114) amends statute to replace the disciplinary action for using, possessing, being under the influence of marihuana or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), or selling, giving, or delivering marihuana or THC to another person on school property or at a school related activity on school property, from a mandatory expulsion to a mandatory placement at a Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP). HB 114 requires an administrator to place a student in in-school suspension (ISS) for aforementioned conducts if a DAEP is at capacity or if a place is needed in DAEP for a student who commits a violent act. If a student is removed from a DAEP and placed in ISS for the above conducts, the student must be returned to a DAEP to finish the term of placement if a position becomes available.

Additionally, HB 114 removes mandatory expulsion for the offense of felony level alcohol behavior.

This bill also creates a mandatory DAEP placement for possessing, using, selling, or delivering an e-cigarette. A district may provide a student and the student's parents a program of educational and support services for offenses involving e-cigarettes.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Commissioner of Education shall adopt rules to define behaviors under §37.007 that constitute violent conduct.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.





HB 473

Relating to parental rights regarding a threat assessment of a student conducted by a public school’s threat assessment and safe and supportive school team.

Author: Representative Lacey Hull

Sponsor: Senator Kevin Sparks

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 473](#) (HB 473) requires a school threat assessment team to notify a parent of a student prior to conducting a threat assessment. The team must also provide the parent with an opportunity to participate in the threat assessment and submit information regarding the student. After completing an assessment, the team must provide the parent the threat assessment team’s findings and conclusions of the threat assessment.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 13, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1760

Relating to the prosecution of the offense of possessing a weapon in certain prohibited places associated with schools or postsecondary educational institutions.

Author: Representative Cole Hefner

Sponsor: Senator Bryan Hughes

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1760](#) (HB 1760) adds postsecondary educational institution to the prohibited places for possessing a firearm. Postsecondary institution is defined in the bill as an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education.

Postsecondary institution is added to law that states that a person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possesses a firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon while being in a vehicle at a school or postsecondary educational institution or on any grounds or building owned by and under the control of a school or postsecondary educational institution.

The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1905

Relating to allowing school districts to make available certain school safety training courses to employees of certain private schools, child-care facilities, or organizations providing out-of-school-time care.

Author: Representative James Talarico
Sponsor: Senator Royce West

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1905](#) (HB 1905) permits a school district, from money available for the purpose, to make available at no cost school safety training courses, including active shooter training courses, to employees of accredited private schools located in the district or child-care facilities and other organizations providing out-of-school time care to children younger than 18 years of age who reside in the district. Applicable training must be approved by state law and determined to be appropriate by the district’s school safety and security committee.

HB 1905 allows the TEA to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to pay the cost of offering school safety training courses.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 2059

Relating to mental health first aid training provided by local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities.

Author: Representative Four Price

Sponsor: Senator Judith Zaffirini



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2059](#) (HB 2059) expands access to Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training by expanding the types of individuals who Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA)s and Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHA)s can train in MHFA, using appropriated funding for MHFA training. This bill also increases the discretion of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) commissioner on how HHSC may grant money to LMHAs and LBHAs to cover the cost of delivering MHFA trainings with appropriated funds.

The bill removes the funding limitation on the amount of money HHSC grants to LMHAs and LBHAs to train their employees or contractors to become trainers in MHFA training. The funding limitation prior to HB 2059 was set at \$1,000 multiplied by the number of employees trained.

HB 2059 expands the types of individuals who can receive MHFA training, at no cost to the individual or an LMHA or LBHA. Prior to HB 2059, the statute lists “university employees, school district employees, and school resource officers” as those who can receive MHFA training from an LMHAs or LBHA at no cost. With HB 2059, the HHSC commissioner will determine the cost necessary to train those individuals in MHFA.

LMHA and LBHAs may also contract with Regional Education Service Centers(ESC)s to train open enrollment charter school employees, private school employees and employees of institutions of higher education.

This bill amends the Health and Safety code by adding “Local Behavioral Health Authorities” to the statute that maintains that those trained by LMHA and LBHAs are not liable for damages when attempting to assist and individual unless there is willful negligence.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 3144

Relating to designating October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month.

Author: Representative John Lujan
Sponsor: Senator Donna Campbell



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3144](#) (HB 3144) establishes October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month. The goal is to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses. Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month may be regularly observed through appropriate activities in communities to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 3186

Relating to youth diversion strategies and procedures for children accused of certain fine-only offenses in municipal and justice courts and related criminal justice matters; authorizing a fee.

Author: Representative Jeff Leach

Sponsor: Senator Judith Zaffirini



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3186](#) (HB 3186) may be cited as the Texas Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act. The bill added Youth Diversion, Subchapter F, to the Code of Criminal Procedure. It seeks to divert youth from formal criminal prosecution for certain fine-only misdemeanor charges. The bill requires each justice and municipal court to establish a youth diversion plan and to provide for youth diversion agreements. Youth diversion plans may be developed collaboratively by the courts for a region. Plans must be maintained and accessible to the public at each court.

Under HB 3186, a justice or judge is required to offer a diversion agreement to a youth, prior to prosecution, if a complaint alleges a fine-only misdemeanor other than traffic offenses. A youth diversion agreement may only be offered to a child once every year. A child is not eligible if the child has previously had an unsuccessful diversion or if the diversion is objected to by the attorney representing the state. A diversion agreement requires written consent of the child and the child's parent.

A court may engage school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, government agencies and programs, and community non-profit organizations as service providers in a diversion plan. Some diversion strategies that are identified in the bill include:

- A school-related program, academic monitoring, tutoring;
- A court-approved teen court program operated by a service provider;
- An educational program, including an alcohol awareness program, a tobacco awareness program, a drug education program, or leadership program;
- A self-improvement program, mentoring, mediation, parenting classes; and
- Referring a child for services including a mental health clinical assessment, counseling, case management, and other services that are listed in the bill.

If a child successfully completes the agreement, the case will be closed. If the child does not comply with the agreement, the case will be referred to the court for a hearing. A student who is home schooled cannot be required to attend a school or participate in educational curriculum not approved by their parent as a requirement of their diversion program.

This bill permits courts to create a youth diversion coordinator. Responsibilities and qualifications for this role are laid out by the bill. Juvenile case managers may be hired, jointly employed, or contracted for services by eligible entities that may include a school district or charter with board approval. The bill describes the duties, costs, and potential funding sources.

By January 1, 2025, each justice and municipal court shall implement a youth diversion plan. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an offense committed on or after January 1, 2025.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- January 1, 2024

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- Each Justice & Municipal court will be required to create youth diversion plans and youth diversion agreements. Plans may be developed regionally between courts. These actions may include collaboration with school districts and charter schools.



HB 3623

Relating to a memorandum of understanding between public or private primary or secondary schools authorizing a school marshal of one school to act as a school marshal at the other school during an event at which both schools participate.

Author: Representative Cole Hefner
Sponsor: Senator Mayes Middleton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3623](#) (HB 3623) allows a public or private school to enter into a memorandum of understanding with another public or private school under which a school marshal may temporarily act as a school marshal for both schools, if hired by one school, during an event at which both schools are participating.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 12, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.





HB 3908

Relating to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness education in public schools.

Author: Representative Terry M. Wilson

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Creighton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3908](#) (HB 3908) requires the governor to establish a Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week in public schools to educate students about the dangers posed by the drug fentanyl and the risks of fentanyl poisoning, including overdose.

This bill requires each school district to provide research-based instruction related to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness to students in grades 6-12 every year. HB 3908 permits a school district to implement a program regarding substance abuse prevention and intervention by providing instruction related to youth substance use and abuse education under the Texas Education Code §23.040.

Instruction related to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness to students in grades 6-12 must include the following:

- Suicide prevention;
- Prevention of the abuse of and addiction to fentanyl;
- Awareness of local school and community resources and any processes involved in accessing those resources
- Health education that includes information about substance use and abuse.

Instruction must be provided by an entity or an employee or agent of an entity that is one of the following:

- A public or private institution of higher education
- A library
- A community service organization
- A religious organization
- A local public health agency
- An organization employing mental health professionals

HB 3908 also adds recommendations regarding curriculum and instruction about the dangers of opioids. The local school health advisory council is required to include addiction to and abuse of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl to recommendations a council is required to make for appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 17, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 4906

Relating to the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications by certain peace officers.

Author: Representative Cole Hefner

Sponsor: Senator Royce West

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4906](#) (HB 4906) expands the “Authorized Peace Officer” definition in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures. Security personnel, as defined in Texas Education Code (TEC) 37.081 or 51.203, are added to the list of “Authorized Peace Officers”. Included in this definition of security personnel, are peace officers for school districts, state institutions of higher education, and public technical institutions.

Authorized Peace Officers, as defined by the Code of Criminal Procedures, is comprised of the positions listed below:

- A sheriff or deputy sheriff
- A constable or deputy constable
- A marshal or police officer of a municipality
- A ranger or officer commissioned by the Public Safety Commission or the director of the department
- An investigator of a prosecutor’s office
- A law enforcement agent of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
- A law enforcement officer commissioned by the Parks and Wildlife Commission
- An enforcement officer appointed by the inspector general of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- An investigator commissioned by the attorney general
- A member of an arson investigating unit commissioned by a municipality, a county, or the state
- A peace officer commissioned under 37.081 or 51.203 of the Texas Education Code

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

**HB 5135**

Relating to the issuance of K9s4KIDs specialty license plates.

Author: Representative Kyle Kacal

Sponsor: Senator Phil King

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 5135](#) (HB 5135) requires the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue K94sKIDs license plates. Funds from the plate fees will be transferred to the TEA for grants to nonprofits for the purchase of police dogs for public and private schools and colleges.

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date**

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- This bill creates a grant program at TEA.



SB 37

Relating to the criminal offense of hazing.

Author: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Sponsor: Representative Mary Gonzalez

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 37](#) (SB 37) adds a peace officer or law enforcement agency among the entities to whom a report of hazing may be submitted. SB 37 provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for a person, or an entity organized to support a student group at an educational setting, who voluntarily reports a hazing incident to law enforcement.

The following changes have been made to statute pertaining to granting immunity from civil or criminal liability to a person who voluntarily reports a hazing incident involving a student:

- A person must not be contacted by a law enforcement agency before voluntarily reporting an incident; and
- Cooperating in good faith is now determined with respect to any institutional process or any law enforcement agency's investigation, regarding the incident, instead of a dean's or official's determination.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

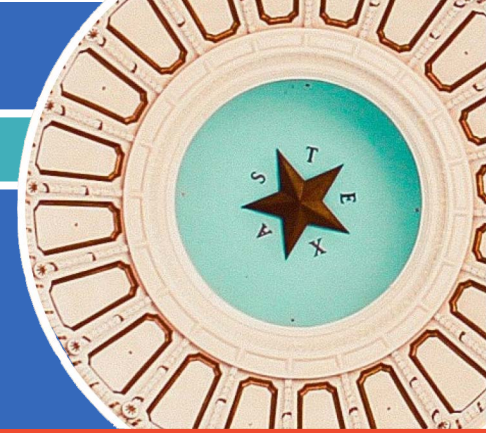


SB 728

Relating to the reporting of mental health and intellectual disability information with respect to certain children for purposes of a federal firearm background check.

Author: Senator Joan Huffman

Sponsor: Representative Jeff Leach



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 728](#) (HB 728) amends the statute regarding “federal prohibited person information”. It adds a person who is at least 16 years old, with a mental illness or an intellectual disability, with court findings and orders that are based on identified criteria related to prohibited firearms access. This bill makes changes to the court reporting of required information to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). DPS is granted access to records for identifying children who are at least 16 years old for reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for background checks.

This bill defines a “federal prohibited person information” as information that identifies:

- A person 16 years or older who has been court-ordered to receive inpatient mental health services;
- A person who has been acquitted by reason of insanity or lack of mental responsibility;
- A person who has an intellectual disability and committed by a court to be placed in a residential care facility or is incompetent to stand trial; or
- An incapacitated adult, who the court has determined, lacks the mental capacity to handle their affairs and must have a guardian.

For individuals at least 16 years old, the clerk of the court is required to provide information on cases with orders pursuant to existing statutes no later than the 30th day after the court has made these findings and orders. The clerk of the court is designated to prepare and forward the signed court order containing federal prohibited person information, at the request of DPS, for an audit of records provided to the FBI for use with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. If DPS determines that a record forwarded is incomplete or invalid, DPS shall notify the court and the clerk of the court shall forward to DPS any additional information or record needed.

The provisions of SB 728 do not apply to a record of a child that is required to be provided to the FBI for use with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System or is required to be forwarded to DPS.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 838

Relating to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools providing silent panic alert technology in classrooms.

Author: Senator Brandon Creighton

Sponsor: Representative Shawn Thierry



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 838](#) (SB 838) requires schools districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide each classroom in the district or school with silent panic alert technology. This technology should allow for immediate contact with district or school emergency services, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments.

Funding:

School districts may use:

- Funds provided to the district or school through the school safety allotment or other available funds; and
- Regular procurement process.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

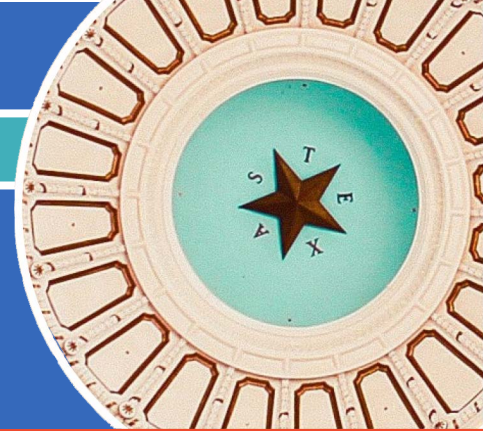
- May 5, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 999

Relating to the requirement that providers of active shooter training at public schools and institutions of higher education obtain a certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Author: Senator Royce West

Sponsor: Representative Tracy O. King

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 999](#) (SB 999) requires entities and their instructors who provide active shooter training to students or employees at a public school or institution of higher education be certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). A school district contracting active shooter training for students and employees must ensure that the provider is TCOLE certified to provide the training per SB 999.

TCOLE is required to establish the training program by September 1, 2024 and the requirements established by SB 999 are in effect after this training is established (September 1, 2024).

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 1720

Relating to the confidentiality of the identity of a public school employee who reports a potential threat to the school's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team.

Author: Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst

Sponsor: Representative J.M. Lozano



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1720](#) (SB 1720) allows for a district employee who reports a potential threat to a campus threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to choose to have their identity remain confidential and not be subject to disclosure, except as necessary for the investigation of a potential threat. The school district must maintain a record of the identity of a district employee who elects for their identity to be confidential.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

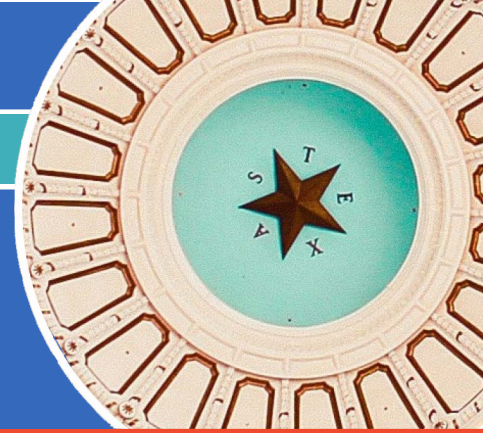
- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 567

Relating to discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyle associated with race

Author: Representative Rhetta Bowers

Sponsor: Senator Borris Miles

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 567](#) (HB 567) prohibits discrimination against hair textures or protective hairstyles commonly or historically associated with race in a student dress code or grooming policy adopted by a school district, including a dress code or grooming policy for extracurricular activities. “Protective hairstyle” includes braids, locks, and twists.

HB 567 provisions also address hair texture or protective hairstyle-based discrimination in connection with institutions of higher education, employers, labor unions, employment agencies, and housing.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1212

Relating to verification of excused absences from public school for the purpose of observing religious holy days.

Author: Representative Jacey Jetton
 Sponsor: Senator Lois Kolkhorst

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1212](#) (HB 1212) prohibits a school district from requiring documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader for an excused absence of a student observing a religious holy day. Schools shall accept a note from a students’ parent or guardian verifying the purpose of the student’s absence.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

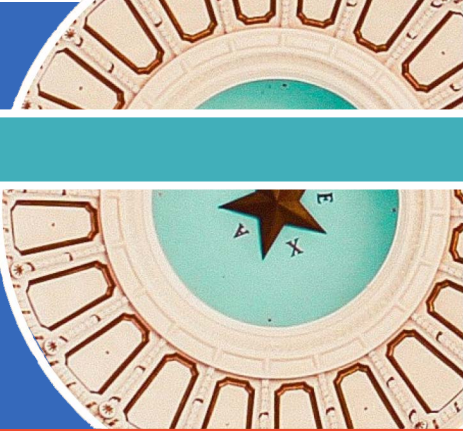
- June 2, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Student Attendance Accounting Handbook (SAAH) rules related to this change in attendance policy will be amended to reflect the changes made by this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1789

Relating to the application of nepotism prohibitions to a person appointed or employed by a school district as a bus driver.

Author: Representative Brad Buckley

Sponsor: Senator Pete Flores

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1789](#) (HB 1789) exempts the appointment or employment of a bus driver from the Texas Government Code (TGC), §573.041 (relating to nepotism) if the board of trustees approves the appointment or employment.

Currently, the exemption for bus drivers applies only to districts located in counties with a population of less than 35,000 persons and school districts located in one or more counties, where the county with the largest population is less than 35,000 persons. HB 1789 adds board of trustee approval as an allowable cause for exemption with no district size requirements.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1825

Relating to the consumption, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages at certain performing arts facilities owned by certain school districts.

Author: Representative Chris Turner

Sponsor: Senator Brian Birdwell

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1825](#) (HB 1825) allows a board of trustees to permit the sale and consumption of alcohol at its performing arts facility, if the facility is leased to a nonprofit organization for an event not sanctioned or sponsored by the district. The bill applies specifically to districts located in a county in which the facility being leased is within two miles of two or more stadiums with a capacity of at least 40,000 people.

Prior to HB 1825, statute allowed a district to permit the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at an event held at its performing arts facility only if the facility was leased to a nonprofit for an event not sponsored or sanctioned by the district and the district is in a county of 300,000 or fewer people, in which a component of the University of Houston system was located.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

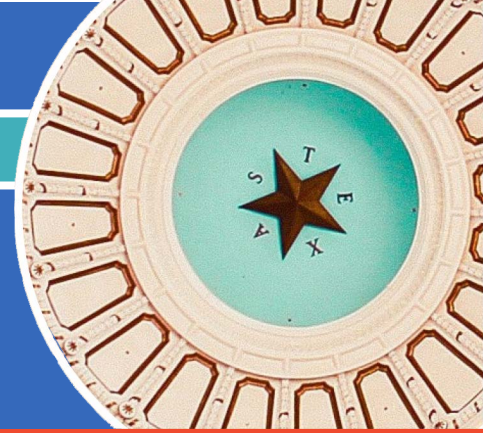
Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.





HB 1959

Relating to the transfer of certain public school students who are children of peace officers.

Author: Representative Candy Noble
 Sponsor: Senator Phil King

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1959](#) (HB 1959) requires a school district board of trustees to transfer a student to another campus or district upon the request of the student’s parent, or person standing in parental relation to the student, if the parent is a peace officer. The campus or district to which the student is transferred must be the one selected by the peace officer.

Districts are not required to provide transportation for a student transferring under this legislation.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 2, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2012

Relating to the display of the national motto in public school and institution of higher education classrooms.

Author: Representative Tom Oliverson

Sponsor: Senator Bryan Hughes

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2012](#) (HB 2012) amends the Texas Education Code (TEC) to provide that a classroom teacher at a public elementary or secondary school, or a teacher or professor at an institution of higher education, may not be prohibited from displaying in a classroom a poster or framed copy of the national motto that meets the requirements of this section.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

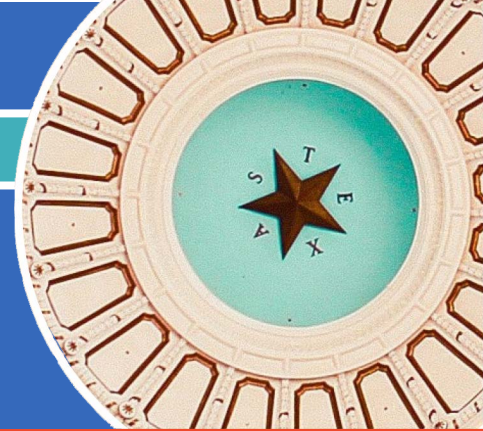
- June 9, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2285

Relating to the authority of certain independent school districts to change the terms of the members of the districts' board of trustees.

Author: Representative Candy Noble
 Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2285](#) (HB 2285) allows specific boards of trustees to adopt a resolution changing the length of the terms of its trustees on or before December 31, 2023.

The resolution must provide for staggered terms of either three or four years and specify how the transition from the previous term to the next term will be made. The transition must begin with the first regular election that occurs after the board adopts the resolution. A trustee who serves on the date the resolution is adopted shall serve the remainder of his or her term.

This resolution may only be adopted by the trustees of a school district with a central office located in a county with a population of between 1 and 1.25 million in which a municipality with a population of 4,500 or less is located.

The subsections of statute established by HB 2285 expire on January 1, 2029.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 12, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2484

Relating to the safety of a referee, judge, or other official at certain public school extracurricular activities and competitions and prohibiting certain conduct by a spectator related to those officials' safety.

Author: Representative Ryan Guillen

Sponsor: Senator Morgan LaMantia

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2484](#) (HB 2484) requires a school district to prohibit a spectator of an extracurricular athletic activity or competition from attending any future extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or the University Interscholastic League (UIL), if the spectator engages in conduct that intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a person serving as a referee, judge, or other activity official in retaliation against the official as a result of their actions in performing their duties.

The bill allows a district to establish an appeals process for individuals prohibited from attending events as a result of this policy. District decisions are not appealable to the Commissioner of Education.

A prohibition that is imposed must be for not less than one year and not more than 5 years from the time the prohibition is imposed.

The bill also requires a district or charter school to provide a peace officer, school resource officer, an administrator, or security personnel at any extracurricular activity or UIL competition to ensure the safety of referees, judges, or other activity officials if a participant or spectator engages in, attempts to engage in, or threatens violent conduct against the official or otherwise disrupts the duties or free movement of the official or the district or school reasonably suspects a threat to an official.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

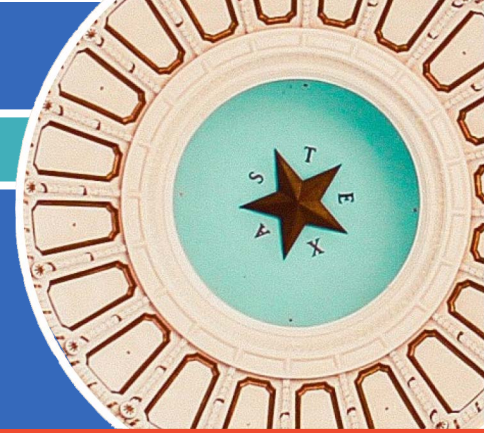
- June 13, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 2892

Relating to the transfer of certain public school students who are children of certain military servicemembers.

Author: Representatives Brad Buckley

Sponsor: Senator Mayes Middleton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2892](#) (HB 2892) requires a school district to allow a student/family to transfer to another campus within the district or to another school district on request of an active duty servicemember who is the parent or guardian.

“Servicemember” is defined as active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, or the Texas National Guard. The receiving campus or district must accept the student/family’s request.

School districts are not required to provide transportation to a student who transfers to another campus or school district as a result of the requirements of this bill.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

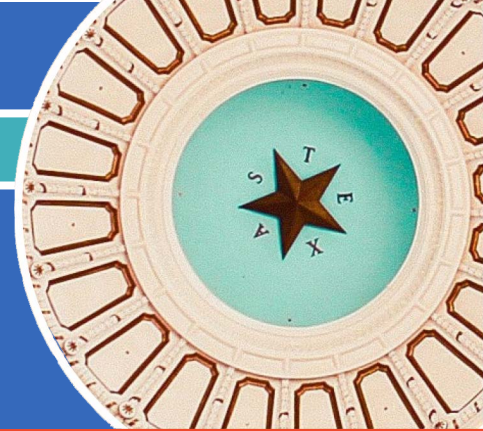
- June 11, 2023

Rulemaking

- Commissioner of Education rules will be updated to align with this statute.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 3440

Relating to the governmental bodies required to post on the Internet agendas for meetings under the open meetings law.

Author: Representative Terry Canales

Sponsor: Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3440](#) (HB 3440) requires governmental bodies that are currently required to post a notice of their meetings online, to also post the agenda of their meetings online, regardless of the size of the municipality, county, or school district. This is a change from current law, which requires only those municipalities, counties, and school districts that meet specific size specifications to post their meeting agenda online, along with their meeting notice.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

HB 4210

Relating to the qualifications to serve as a member of a board of trustees of a military reservation school district and rules adopted by the State Board of Education of the governance of a special-purpose district.

Author: Representative John Lujan
Sponsor: Senator Donna Campbell



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4210](#) (HB 4210) clarifies that a person who retires from active duty while serving on the board of trustees of a military district may continue to serve as a trustee for the remainder of his or her term.

Currently, the State Board of Education (SBOE) appoints trustees for three military reservation districts, all of which are part of Joint Base San Antonio:

- Fort Sam Houston ISD;
- Lackland ISD; and
- Randolph Field ISD

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The State Board of Education shall adopt rules according to this provision.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.

SB 1008

Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.

Author: Senator Pete Flores

Sponsor: Representative Brad Buckley

**Bill Summary:**

[Senate Bill 1008](#) (SB 1008) changes the number of days in which military families can establish residency. A person seeking to establish residency within a school district's attendance zone may now do so no later than the 90th day after the arrival date specified in the military order (previously, this was required within 10 days).

Impact of Legislation**Effective Date:**

- May 10, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 4456

Relating to the calculation of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for school districts.

Author: Representative Cody Harris
Sponsor: Senator Paul Bettencourt

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4456](#) (HB 4456) amends the calculation of certain tax rates for school districts that are used to comply with the Comptroller's "Truth in Taxation" requirements. School districts are no longer required to calculate the "rate to maintain" and will begin using an updated and clarified calculation for the "no new revenue" tax rate.

The "rate to maintain" is the rate of taxation needed to maintain the same amount of state and local revenue per student receives in that district to match what was received in the preceding tax year.

The "no new revenue" rate is changed from being based solely on local taxable values to a rate which takes into account the state and local funding share for the maintenance and operations (M&O) revenue of a school district.

School district revenues are entitlements set by statutory calculations that consider student counts and characteristics, district characteristics, attendance patterns, and other factors. Local taxable values and tax rates only change the source of funding and the percentages of funding from state versus local sources.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- January 1, 2024

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



SB 1145

Relating to local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

Author: Senator Royce West

Sponsor: Representative James Talarico

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 1145](#) (SB 1145) provides a local option for counties and municipalities to provide an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain child-care facilities. The maximum percentage reduction is 50 percent.

This bill amends the Texas Tax Code to define qualifying child-care facilities as participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Texas Rising Star Program and have at least 20 percent of the students receiving subsidized care through the TWC's child-care services program. This bill also provides for continuity of the exemption once granted.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

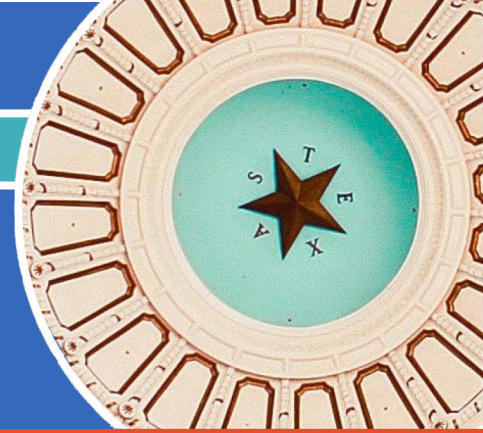
- The 2024 tax year, contingent on the accompanying constitutional amendment SJR 64 (88R).

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1926

Relating to the expiration date and funding of the supplemental special education service program.

Author: Representative Lacey Hull

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1926](#) (HB 1926) repeals the September 1, 2024 expiration date for the Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) program. HB 1926 also removes the funding appropriations' limit of \$30 million per year.

The SSES program, established by SB 1716 in 2021, provides an educational benefit to a student receiving special education services by providing grants for families to purchase educational goods or services. Examples of these services include technological equipment, tutoring or physical therapy.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking:

- Commissioner of Education rule revisions will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- TEA must designate one or more education service centers (ESCs) to administer the program.

HB 3928

Relating to dyslexia evaluations and services for public school students, the provision of services for students with dyslexia and related disorders, and certain parental notice regarding the rights of parents of public school students with disabilities.

Author: Representative Steve Toth

Sponsor: Senator Tan Parker



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3928](#) (HB 3928) requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to not make a distinction between standard protocol dyslexia and other types of dyslexia instruction, including specially designed instruction, in its Dyslexia Handbook. The bill requires the SBOE to revise the handbook by June 30, 2024.

The bill defines dyslexia as a specific learning disability under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). If a district suspects or has reason to suspect that a student may have dyslexia and be a child with a disability as defined by IDEA, the district is required to send a notice, developed by TEA, to the parent regarding their rights under IDEA that may be additional rights that their student is entitled to under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

This legislation requires that the multidisciplinary evaluation team and any subsequent admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee that is convened to determine eligibility must include at least one member who has specific knowledge regarding the reading process, dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction. HB 3928 states that the member must be a licensed dyslexia therapist, hold the most advanced dyslexia-related certification issued by an association recognized by the SBOE, or if neither of these positions are available, meet applicable training requirements adopted by the SBOE. This member must sign a document describing their participation.

At least once in each grading period, and more often if prescribed in a student's individualized education program (IEP), parents must be informed regarding progress on the dyslexia instruction received. This includes any students receiving dyslexia instruction under Section 504. The bill defines a provider of dyslexia instruction as someone who is fully trained in the district's adopted instructional materials for students with dyslexia and does not have to be a certified special education teacher, unless employed in an assignment that requires that certification.

HB 3928 requires the district provide information on how to request a special education evaluation to parents on the placement of their student in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), and when transitioning back from a DAEP. Note that this is the only provision in the bill that does not apply to open enrollment charter schools.

A school board of trustees or governing board of an open enrollment charter school must adopt and implement a policy requiring the district or school to comply with all rules and standards adopted by the SBOE to implement the dyslexia program, including the SBOE's dyslexia handbook. TEA must solicit parent input on a district or school's implementation of the dyslexia program during the dyslexia monitoring process.

This act may be cited as the Beckley Wilson Act.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 10, 2023

Rulemaking

- The State Board of Education must revise their dyslexia handbook by June 30, 2024.

Other Actions Required

- TEA will develop a form that describes rights under IDEA that may be additional to what is provided under Section 504.
- TEA must incorporate parent input in the dyslexia monitoring process.

SB 2304

Relating to the regulation of driver education courses and driving safety courses and the provision of information regarding the Texas Driving with Disability Program to certain public school students.

Author: Senator Morgan LaMantia

Sponsor: Representative Ana Hernandez



Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2304](#) (SB 2304) requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide information on the Texas Driving with Disability Program to students who receive special education services or have a Section 504 accommodation plan from age 16 through graduation, or age 21. Driver's education and driving safety curriculum must also have information about this program.

TEA must collaborate with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), and Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, to develop the informational materials required of this statute. The materials must include information regarding a person's options to voluntarily list any health condition or disability that may impede his or her communication with a peace officer on his or her vehicle registration or application for driver license. The information may be provided with any transition planning.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 18, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- TEA must collaborate with DPS, TxDMV, and Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities to develop the informational materials required of this statute.
- Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committees and Section 504 committees will be responsible for sharing the required information.



HB 2453

Relating to the issuance of a digital occupational license by a state agency, county, or municipality

Author: Representative Ryan Guillen

Sponsor: Senator Tan Parker

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 2453](#) (HB 2453) allows licensing agencies that issue occupational licenses to provide digital licenses. The bill defines “occupational license” as a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by the statute or rule that must be obtained by an individual to engage in a particular business or profession.

The requirements for a digital license are as follows:

- The digital license must be in a secure format and accessible by the license holder through an internet website and a wireless communication device;
- The digital license must be viewable to the public through an internet website or through a QR code; and
- If the license is contracted through a vendor, then it must be in a format in which the vendor and the license holder can verify the validity of the license.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 4123

Relating to access to and use of certain criminal history record information.

Author: Representative Ryan Guillen

Sponsor: Senator Judith Zaffirini

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 4123](#) (HB 4123) amends state agencies' authority to obtain and utilize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history records. This bill also clarifies requirements and aligns state law with FBI policy.

The criminal history record section of the Texas Education Code (TEC) is amended and is applicable to all contract employees. Prior law was only effective for employees starting after January 1, 2008. Additionally, sub-contractors are subject to a criminal history check if they directly interact with students.

A "qualified school contractor" is defined as:

- Contracts or subcontracts to provide services to a school district, charter school, or shared services arrangement; and
- Determined eligible by DPS to obtain criminal history pursuant to the National Child Protection Act for an employee, applicant for employment, or volunteer of the qualified school contractor.

Qualified school contractors, as defined in statute, are required to submit fingerprint records. A qualified school contractor shall certify to the school district that the entity has received all criminal history record information relating to a person who is employed by or under a current offer of employment by the qualified school contractor. If the contracting entity or subcontracting entity is not a qualified school contractor, the contract employee must submit to a national criminal history record information review by the school district, open-enrollment charter school, regional education service center (ESC), commercial transportation company, or an education shared services arrangement.

A qualified school contractor shall require that any of its subcontracting entities that are qualified subcontractors obtain all criminal history record information that relates to a subcontracted employee. If the subcontractor is not a qualified school contractor, the subcontractor employees are required to be fingerprinted by the school. A qualified school contractor or subcontractor are not required to fingerprint their employees, if the school district or charter school fingerprints the person.

A school district, open-enrollment charter school, ESC, commercial transportation company, or an education shared services arrangement, qualified school contractor may not permit an employee to provide services at a school if the employee has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense that would prevent a person from being employed under TEC 22.085(a).

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- June 13, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 1002

Relating to the membership of a public school concussion oversight team and the removal of a public school student from an interscholastic athletic activity on the basis of a suspected concussion.

Author: Representative Four Price

Sponsor: Senator Charles Perry



Bill Summary:

[House Bill 1002](#) (HB 1002) allows a school district or open-enrollment charter school to include any person licensed in Texas under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 201 or Chapter 453, to be a member of the school district's or charter school's concussion oversight team. Those provisions of code are specific to chiropractors and physical therapists, respectively.

Current law requires school districts and open-enrollment charters schools that have students participating in interscholastic athletic activities to appoint or approve a concussion oversight team and requires that each concussion oversight team include at least one physician and, to the greatest extent practicable, one or more of the following:

- Athletic trainer
- Advanced practice nurse
- Neuropsychologist
- Physician assistant

HB 1002 also adds licensed physical therapists to the list of people who are permitted to determine that a student should be removed from interscholastic athletics practice or competition due to a suspected concussion.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

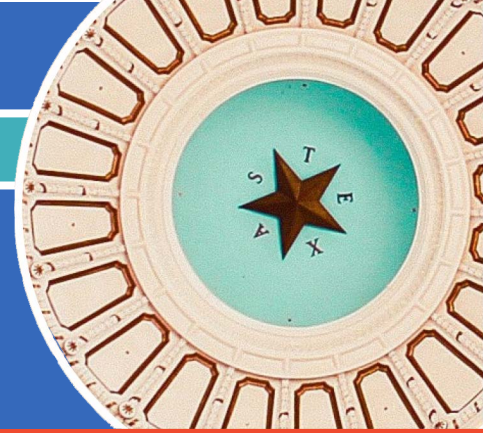
- June 10, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.



HB 3708

Relating to creating an allotment under the Foundation School Program for school districts that allow non-enrolled students to participate in University Interscholastic League activities.

Author: Representative Brad Buckley

Sponsor: Senator Angela Paxton

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3708](#) (HB 3708) establishes that a district is entitled to receive an annual allotment of \$1,500 per University Interscholastic League (UIL) activity in which a non-enrolled student participates. A non-enrolled student is defined as one who receives homeschool instruction from a non-public school. Current law permits a public school participating in activities sponsored by UIL to allow a non-enrolled student who meets eligibility standards to participate in UIL activities on behalf of the school in the same manner that the school provides opportunities to participate to students enrolled in the school.

The "Allotment for Non-Enrolled Students Participating in UIL Activities" establishes that a district that allows participation of non-enrolled students in UIL activities is entitled to receive an annual allotment of \$1,500 per UIL activity in which a non-enrolled student participates.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required

- New Data Reporting Requirements
- New allotment through the Foundation School Program.



Senate Bill 2158

Relating to the establishment of an adult education pilot program by the Windham School District.

Author: Senator Phil King

Sponsor: Representative Andrew Murr

Bill Summary:

[Senate Bill 2158](#) (SB 2158) requires the Windham School District to establish a pilot program under which one or more nonprofit entities provide an adult education program to enable certain eligible individuals confined or imprisoned in the department to successfully complete a high school program that can lead to a diploma.

Impact of Legislation

Effective Date:

- May 23, 2023

Rulemaking:

- No Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education, or State Board for Educator Certification rulemaking will be needed to implement this bill.

Other Actions Required:

- No additional TEA actions are required to implement this bill.