



86th Session Wraps

Texas PTA with the help of our Governmental Affairs Team, Arnold Public Affairs, tracked 776 bills this session involving public education and the welfare of our students. 623 of those bills were heard in committee and 139 passed and awaited final approval/veto by the Governor.

Top Priorities *Signed by the Governor or adopted into other legislation*

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM REFORM

HB 1 (Rep. Zerwas) Sets the state's budget for the next two years. An additional \$11.5B will be spent in the next two years to reduce school property taxes, increase teacher pay, and increase state aid to school districts.

HB 3 (Rep. Huberty) The landmark school finance and education reform legislation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

HB 3 (Rep. Huberty) Increases the funding weight for students who receive special education services in mainstream classes.

SB 712 (Sen. Lucio, Jr.) Prohibits the use of certain behavioral interventions on students enrolled in public school who receive special education services.

STATE ASSESSMENT

HB 4242 (Rep. Bernal) Authorizes an audit of the readability of the questions on the STAAR. The bill died in the Senate, but language survived in HB 3 to require an audit of STAAR questions.

HB 3906 (Rep. Huberty) Relates to the adoption and administration of STAAR. The bill was amended by Conference Committee.

T21, RAISE THE AGE TO 21 FOR TOBACCO PURCHASES

SB 21 (Sen. Huffman) Raises the age to 21 to purchase tobacco products including e-cigarettes and Juuling devices. SB 21 exempts persons under the age of 21 who are in the military and prohibits a municipality from raising the age to purchase tobacco products above the age of 21.

SCHOOL SAFETY

SB 11 (Sen. Taylor) Relates to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools.

HB 2195 (Rep. Meyer) Relates to an active shooter emergency policy for school districts.

HB 2813 (Rep. Price) Relates to the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The bill permanently establishes the Council, created in 2015, in statute.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

SB 10 (Sen. Nelson) Relates to the creation of the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium. It was amended onto SB 11, the school safety bill.

HB 18 (Rep. Price) Relates to consideration of the mental health of public school students in training requirements for certain school employees, curriculum requirements, counseling programs, and educational programs.

HB 19 (Rep. Price) Relates to mental health and substance use resources for certain school districts.

HB 906 (Rep. Thompson) Relates to the establishment of a collaborative task force to study certain public school mental health services.

HB 1070 (Rep. Price) Relates to the mental health first aid training program reporting requirements.

LITERACY BY 3RD GRADE

HB 3 (Rep. Huberty) The bill funds full day PreK for all low-income students and English language learners and allows districts to seek a waiver to the requirement for up to six years if seat availability is an issue.

SB 1679 (Sen. West) Relates to the eligibility of certain children for free PreK programs in public schools.

INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEE

SB 213 (Sen. Seliger) Extends the life of the Individual Graduation Committee Program to September 1, 2023.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SB 72 (Sen. Nelson) Relates to the establishment and duties of the human trafficking prevention coordinating council.

HB 111 (Rep. Gonzalez) Relates to training for employees of school districts and open-enrollment charter schools on the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of certain children.

HB 292 (Rep. Thompson) Relates to the inclusion of instruction on the trafficking of persons in the basic training curriculum for peace officers.

HB 403 (Rep. Thompson) Relates to training requirements for a member of the board of trustees and the superintendent of a school district regarding sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.

HCR 35 (Rep. Miller) A resolution recognizing human trafficking as a public health issue.

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