



Legislative Update

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Presented to the Board of Trustees by

Dr. Maroba Zoeller, Chief Governmental Relations Officer

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Report on Committees

- **2/27** House Pensions Committee met on TRS Pension system
- **2/28** House Public Education to hear School Finance Reform in-depth examination of school finance issues and school finance bills on 3/7
- **2/23** Senate Education met on bills related to improper relationships & P-TECH program

Update Senate & House Budget

- Process still in initial stages
- Senate & House Committees and sub-committees have heard testimony from the LBB, TEA, and other organizations & agencies
- Major policy change to date is regarding High Quality Pre-Kindergarten funding.
- HB 1 “de-funds” the High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Grant Program
- Instead, uses \$116.9 million to increase the Supplemental Funding for Pre-K program
- State provided \$30 million for Supplemental Funding for Pre-K in 2016-17 Biennium

Update Senate & House Budget

- Local property value growth results in reduced state costs to the school finance system
- Both the House and Senate proposed budgets take advantage of this “new” available revenue, an estimated \$4.7 billion for the biennium when taking into account the reduced state obligations due to value growth (\$3.6 billion state savings) and the increase to recapture (\$1.1 billion more than the previous biennium). In addition, both proposed budgets account for the current statutory provision that eliminates ASATR hold-harmless funding. This is a savings to the state of \$600 million.

2017 Legislative Priorities

School Funding

- The basic allotment should be raised creating additional funding for all districts in Texas. The increased allotment would not require additional revenue from the state, rather revenues generated by increased property values would be returned to local school districts.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- HB 94 Referred to House Committee **2/13/17**
- **Increasing the basic allotment** for each student from \$4,765 to \$5,800.
- HB 177 Referred to House Committee **2/14/17**
- **Increases the annual allotment** provided for each student in a **bilingual** or special language program. The increase would be **.25 of the basic allotment** instead of .1 of the basic allotment.
- HB 286 Referred to House Committee **2/14/17**
- Relating to the **repeal** of provisions (**Chapter 41**) requiring school districts to reduce their wealth per student to the equalized wealth level

School Funding

- **Companions:** SB 161; Rodriguez, Jose(D); (Identical); 11-14-16 S Filed
- **Raise the bilingual education allotment weight** in the Foundation School Program to **0.25** from the current weight of 0.10.
- **Raise the CTE funding** weight

2017 Legislative Priorities

Vouchers or Education Savings Grants

- Oppose a state voucher plan, tax credit, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or any program that diverts public tax dollars to private entities, homeschool students, or parents with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.

VOUCHERS - SB 3

- Filed by Sen. Larry Taylor 1/30/17
- Referred to Senate Education 2/1/17
- Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program and a tax credit scholarship and educational expense assistance program.

VOUCHERS - SB 3

- The first half of the bill proposes **education savings accounts**, or ESAs, which give Texas parents **public money to spend on private K-12 school tuition and education-related expenses, including tutoring, technology, textbooks and special education services**
- The second half of the bill brings back a proposal for **tax credit scholarships**, which was hotly debated during the 2015 legislative session. The tax credit scholarship program would **allow businesses to count contributions** to approved scholarship organizations as credit against their insurance premium tax.

VOUCHERS - SB 3

- Has enough votes to pass out of Senate Education, but author Senator Taylor lacks support from Republican colleagues to bring the measure to full Senate for a vote.
- 19 of 31 members must approve before it is eligible for floor debate and a vote.
- Even with 20-11 GOP majority in the Senate, Chairman Taylor needs as many as 5 more Republican votes – in the face of solid Democratic opposition – to debate & vote on SB 3
- Even if he wins the Senate which is likely – he will face challenges in the Texas House where school choice legislation has traditionally been opposed by Democrats and rural Republicans.

SCHOOL CHOICE

- SB 610 Referred to Senate Education **2/13/17**
- **As filed**, SB 610 amends 30A.101, Education Code (Eligibility to Act as Course Provider) by **expanding the state virtual school network to cover kindergarten and elementary** instead of just middle and high schools
- SB 620 Referred to Senate Education **2/13/17**
- **As filed**, SB 620 **permits students to enroll full time** in the virtual school network.

SCHOOL CHOICE

- SB 282 Referred to Senate Education 1/30/17
- A student may transfer to another campus in the student's home district or another district which has an overall rating that is at least 2 letter grades higher than the student's home campus. School districts must admit students to campuses under these circumstances, unless the campus does not have available capacity. If a school district receives more requests to transfer than available capacity at a campus, the district must fill the available positions by lottery. Once a student transfers, the student may remain at the new campus in subsequent years, even if the overall rating of the student's home campus improves.

SCHOOL CHOICE

- SB 518 Referred to Senate Finance 2/6/17
- SB 518 is the companion bill to HB 595 **As filed**, SB 518 creates a new Subchapter R to Chapter 171 of the Tax Code (Tax Credits for Paid Internships Given to Certain High School Students). Taxable **entities may receive a \$1,000 credit on their franchise taxes** for each eligible student that completes an **eligible internship program** offered by the taxable entity

SCHOOL CHOICE

- SJR 33 Referred to Senate Education **2/13/17**
- Proposing constitutional amendment **protecting private schools and home schools** from state and local **regulation**.

2017 Legislative Priorities

A-F Accountability System

- Repeal A-F Accountability System designed to rank order schools within each domain to allow for comparison of schools/districts. The bulk of the rankings will be based solely on a once a year STAAR/EOC assessment that has been proven to be defective, not statistically significant or reliable, and detrimental to students and the teaching profession. The present standard setting process indicates that it will be impossible for all schools to earn an A.

A-F Grading System

HB 843 Referred to Public Education **2/21/17**

- Relating to designations for rating the performance of public school districts and campuses for accountability purposes.
- Changes the ratings labels used for state accountability purposes. Rather than using letter grades of A-F as labels, the bill would **require TEA to assign schools and districts academic accountability ratings of Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, or Needs Improvement.**
- In the financial accountability system, bill language refers to ratings of less than satisfactory performance.
- Locally determined community and student engagement ratings **would change from A-F labels** to Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable or Needs Improvement.
- Effective date: Sept. 1, 2017.

CURRICULUM

- **SIGNIFICANT CHANGE – IMPORTANT TO ALLEN ISD**
- SB 826 Filed **2/10/17** by Sen. Larry Taylor
- Relating to the sequencing of required English language arts courses and mathematics courses in schools.
- Essentially Advanced Courses can only be taken “**after** successful completion” of basic foundation courses
- HB 1854 Filed **2/14/17** Rep. Huberty
- Companion Bill

ACCOUNTABILITY

- SB 384 Referred to Senate Education **2/1/17**
- "make all reasonable efforts to **schedule end-of-course assessment instruments** as required by Section 39.023(c) so that the administration of those assessment instruments **does not conflict with the administration of a nationally recognized assessment instrument, examination, or test** administered under a uniform schedule and used by institutions of higher education to award course credit based on satisfactory performance on the assessment instrument, examination, or test, including an **advanced placement test or international baccalaureate examination.**" Applies beginning with the 2017-18 school year

ACCOUNTABILITY

- SB 215 Referred to Senate Education **1/25/17**
- Relating to **limiting certain state-required assessment instruments** administered to public school students in certain grades **to assessments required by federal law.**

ACCOUNTABILITY

- SB 463 Referred to Senate Education **2/06/17**
- Relating to the use of **individual graduation committees** to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.
- Companion SB 531, Referred to Senate Ed **2/08/17**
- Companion SB 615 Referred to Senate Ed **2/13/17**
- Companion HB 966 filed **1/12/17**
- Companion HB 77 Referred to House **2/13/17**

ACCOUNTABILITY

- SB 214 Referred to Senate Education **1/25/17**
- Relating to a **prohibition of a monitoring system performance indicator** based on the number or percentage of students receiving **special education** services.
- HB 61 Referred to House Education **2/13/17**
- Relating to consideration under the public school accountability system of **performance on assessment instruments** by certain students **formerly receiving special education services**

ACCOUNTABILITY

- HB 184 Referred to House Committee 2/14/17
- Relating to public school accountability for **bilingual education and English as a second language** and other special language programs.
- HB 172 Referred to House Committee 2/14/17
- Relating to the consideration of the **performance of students of limited English proficiency on state assessment instruments** and inclusion of related information in campus report cards.
- HB 79 Referred to House Committee 2/14/17
- Relating to the **use of alternative assessment instruments for students in a special education program of a public school district.**

ACCOUNTABILITY

- SB 606 Referred to Senate Education **2/13/17**
- SB 606 amends 12A.003, Education Code (Local Innovation Plan) to permit **districts of innovation** to administer national norm-referenced assessment instruments instead of state assessment instruments adopted under Section 39.023. Effective immediately if approved by 2/3 of both houses, otherwise effective September 1, 2017. (2-5-17 jr)

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

- HB 188 Referred to House Education 2/14/17
- Districts would be required to maintain a **ratio** of at least **one certified teacher for every 10 students in prekindergarten**
- HB 196 Referred to House Education 2/14/17
- Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.
- SB 35 Referred to Senate Education 1/24/17
- Companion Bill
- HB 1845 2/14/17 Authorizes Foundation School Program state aid for full-day Pre-K

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

- SB 338 Referred to Senate Education **1/30/17**
- Relating to the first day of the school year for public schools (deletes restriction for exemption; tax free dates 3rd Friday in Aug-Sun.
- Filed by Sen. Van Taylor

ADMINISTRATION

- SB 365 Referred to Senate Education **2/1/17**
- Requires school districts to: -review the policy recommendations of the local school health advisory council provided under Section 28.004 (before **adopting a recess policy**); and -review and, if necessary, revise the recess policy at least once every 5 years. The recess policy must specify: (1) the **required number of minutes of weekly unstructured playtime**; and (2) whether a student's recess time may be **withheld as a form of student discipline**. Each school district must adopt a recess policy by May 1, 2018 and the policy must be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

ADMIN

- HB 1010 **Filed 1/12/17** by Rep. Alonzo
- **As filed**, HB 1010 adds a new subsection (d-1) to 11.151, Education Code, relating to the powers and duties of the board of trustees of a school district. This new subsection provides that the **rules and policies adopted by the board have the force of law in relation to the district**. The board of trustees (collectively and individually) and each district employee must comply with the rules, bylaws and policies. Effective immediately if approved by 2/3 of both houses, otherwise effective September 1, 2017

PROPERTY TAX

- HJR 17 Referred to House Ways & Means
2/13/17
- Limits maximum appraised value of real property for ad valorem tax purposes of 105% of appraised value for previous year (Constitutional amendment (HJR 17, 34, 35,19,
- Companion 167 , HB 44 Referred to House Ways & Means **2/14/17**
- HB 390 Referred to House Ways & Means
2/16/17

Relating to school district ad valorem tax rates

DISCIPLINE

- Related to requirements to **strengthen district's policy on bullying, including cyberbullying; allows bullies to be removed from class, placed in DAEP or expelled.** (HB 304, HB 305, HB 306, SB 179, SB 180, 181)
- HB 304 Referred to House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence **2/15/17**
- HB 305 Referred to House Education **2/15/17**
- HB 306 Referred to House Education **2/15/17**
- *David's Law*
- Age of adult criminal responsibility- raise age for mandatory prosecution as an adult from 17 to 18 allowing non-violent offenders to be charged as a minor (HB 676 Wu, HB 122 Dutton)

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Jeff Leach

- HB 615 – Relating to removal of requirements for grade-level promotion that are based on satisfactory performance on state assessment instruments
- HB 617 – Relating to the inclusion of American principles in the public school curriculum and instructional materials
- HB 620 – Relating to first day of instruction at public school (changes “may not begin instruction before the 4th week to the 2nd week of August)

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Jeff Leach

HB 1025 Relating to the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations. (1/13/17)

HB 1068 Relating to including fetal development instruction as part of the health curriculum used in public schools in certain grade levels (1/17/17)

HB 1069 Relating to compliance with prohibitions regarding the use of common core state standards in public schools. (1/17/17)

HB 1336 Relating to financial reporting by a school district regarding the costs associated with administering certain assessment instruments. (1/27/17)

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Jeff Leach

HB 611 Relating to the enforcement by certain governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration and to the duties of law enforcement agencies concerning certain arrested persons.

HB 613 Relating to limitations on the rate of growth of appropriations for certain categories of spending.

HB 616 Relating to the system by which an application for a low income housing tax credit is scored.

HB 1516 Relating to the authority of a school district to excuse from school attendance a student who is exempt from the administration of a final examination. (2/2/17)

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Van Taylor

- SB 14 .(Approved in Senate; Sent to House **2/8/17**)
Relating to the ethics of public officers and related requirements; creating criminal offenses
- SB 338 – Referred to Senate Education **1/30/17**
Relating to the first day of the school year for public schools (deletes restriction for exemption; tax free dates 3rd Friday in Aug-Sun)
- SJR 24 – Referred to Senate Finance **1/30/17**
Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for certain excess revenue to be dedicated toward contributions to state retirement systems, the health benefit plan for retired education employees and their dependents, the Texas tomorrow fund, the permanent school fund, and the permanent university fund.

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Van Taylor

- SB 640 Referred to Senate Education **2/13/17**
Relating to equal opportunity for access by home-schooled students to University Interscholastic League sponsored activities.

SB 652 Referred to Committee on Senate State Affairs
2/14/17

Relating to the eligibility for service retirement annuities from the Employees Retirement System of Texas or the Teacher Retirement System of Texas of certain employees convicted of certain offenses.

SB 653 Referred to Senate Education **2/14/17**

Relating to improper relationships between educators or certain other school personnel and students.

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Van Taylor

- SB 253 Referred to Senate Business & Commerce
1/30/17

Relating to investment prohibitions and divestment requirements for certain investments of public money.

- SB 444 Referred to Senate Education 2/06/17
Relating to school marshals for private schools.

- SB 478 Referred to Senate Education 2/06/17

Relating to a requirement that a school district or open-enrollment charter school terminate certain employees convicted of certain offenses.

SB 579 Referred to Senate Education 2/06/17

Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors on private school campuses and at or in transit to or from off-campus school events.

BILLS FILED BY OUR REPS: Van Taylor

- SB 778

Relating to the appointment of school marshals by public schools and the ammunition approved for use by a school marshal serving a public school or a public junior college. (2-08-17)

- SJR 21 Referred to committee on Senate State Affairs (1/30/17)

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing that members of the legislature and the lieutenant governor will not receive a state salary or per diem during certain periods unless the legislature has passed the state's budget.

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 10 - First Day of Session
- March 10 – Last day to file bills
- May 29 – Sine die – Last day of Session
- June 18 – Deadline for governor veto

March 28-29 – Collin County Days in Austin

Dr. Maroba Zoeller
Chief Governmental Relations Officer
(P) 972-236-0618
maroba_zoeller@allenisd.org