

Reviewing the Texas Legislative Session: What New Education Policies Mean for Schools

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Overview

- ★ Review of IDRA Texas Education Policy Priorities
- ★ Texas Education Bills Passed by Topic
- ★ Implications for Next School Year



IDRA Texas Education Policy Priorities

88th Legislative Session

- ★ **Secure** Fair School Funding
- ★ **Ensure** Excellent Educational Opportunities for Emergent Bilingual Students
- ★ **Promote** Culturally-Sustaining Schools
- ★ **Create** Safer Schools Without Harmful Discipline
- ★ **Prepare** All Students to Succeed in College



Secure Fair School Funding

What's Budgeted for Schools?

- ★ **\$48.6 billion** in Foundation Schools Program
- ★ **Decrease of \$3 billion in FSP** funding from last budget
- ★ \$1.4 Billion for **school safety** grants and initiatives (e.g., shields purchases)
- ★ **Now: Fight to increase** tax compression - changes where money comes from but does not mean more money for students



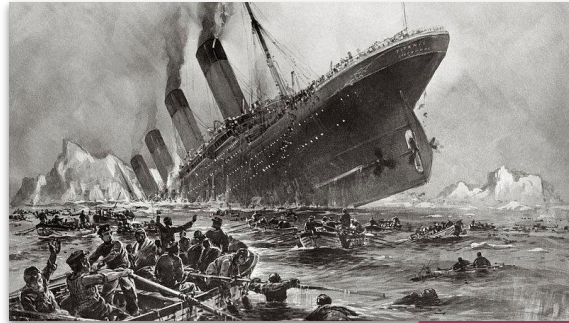
Secure Fair School Funding

Public School Funding and Private Voucher Proposals Went Down Together

- ★ No student funding increases
- ★ No adjustments for inflation
- ★ No teacher raises
- ★ No private school vouchers

HB 100 - Would have raised basic allotment, tied some allotment to allotment-based funding

SB 8 - Proposed school voucher (ESA) proposal of \$8,000 per participant



Ensure Excellent Educational Opportunities for Emergent Bilingual Students

- ★ **No legislative recommendations** from Strategic Plan for Emergent Bilingual Students
- ★ **No new supports** for bilingual/ESL teacher workforce or bilingual education programs
- ★ **Expanded bilingual education/ESL/Spanish language teacher tuition assistance** program
 - Five additional universities for total of 12 universities
 - Additional funding \$736,434 in two-year budget



Promote Culturally-Sustaining Schools

More K-12 Censorship of Books & Materials

- ★ **HB 900** - Places restrictions on book vendors to school libraries, creates rating system for sexually explicit and relevant material
- ★ **HB 1605** - State-approved instructional materials incentivized for district use, incentivizes censorship

Religious Influence in Schools

- ★ **SB 763** - Religious chaplains can act as school counselors

Close Call

- ★ **SB 1515** - Would have required 10 Commandments displayed in classrooms



Create Safer Schools Without Harmful Discipline

Some New Protections

- ★ **CROWN Act (HB 567)** - prohibits discipline on the basis of hair texture/style
- ★ **No Kids in Cuffs (SB 133)** - prohibits physical/chemical restraints on young students
- ★ Harmful & Exclusionary Discipline Bills Defeated (**HB 655 & SB 245**)

Close Call: Truancy

- ★ **HB 3917** - Requires clear policies, rights, and options for parents facing truancy charges, including options for parent-school partnerships to address root causes of absence
- ★ Re-criminalization and Fines Bills (**HB 3931** and **SB 1488**) failed to pass
- ★ Missed Opportunity: data collection requirements re chronic absenteeism (**SB 1630, HB 185, SB 1888**)



Create Safer Schools Without Harmful Discipline

Legislature Prioritizes Hardening, Harmful Policing Mandates over Prevention and Mental Health: HB 3

- ★ Armed Security Officer Mandate
- ★ Increased Power for and Potential Punitive Measures by TEA
- ★ Emphasis on Hardening, Emergency Preparedness
- ★ Mental Health First Aid Training

School Safety Allotment

- ★ \$10 per student
- ★ \$15,000 per campus

Missed Opportunity: Mental Health

- HB 98 (increasing school-based mental healthcare services)
- SB 948 (mental health allotment)



Prepare All Students to Succeed in College

Two-Year College Funding & Access

★ HB 8 -

- **Outcomes-based funding** for community colleges offering “credentials of value” (funding tied to earning potential)
- **Dual Credit Scholarships** for low-income high school students

Censorship and Faculty Restrictions

★ SB 17 -

- **Ban** on offices of diversity, equity and inclusion

★ SB 18 -

- **Defines tenure**, performance reviews, and broadens grounds for firing



Q&A



Resources

We All Belong Hub: <https://idraseden.org/hub/>

IDRA eNews: <https://www.idra.org/idra-e-news/>

Knowledge is Power: <https://www.idra.org/services/knowledge-is-power/>

Brief: [What Safe Schools Look Like for Every Student](#)

Brief: [How Texas Schools Are Funded](#)

Infographic: [5 Reasons Private School Vouchers Would Hurt Students](#)

Guide: [What Texas' Classroom Censorship Law Means for Texas Students & Schools](#)





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