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 allotments to enrollment-based funding

SB 8 - Proposed private 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

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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)

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Prepare All Students to Succeed in College

Two-Year College Funding & Access

★ HB 8 -
  o Outcomes-based funding for community colleges offering “credentials of value” (funding tied to earning potential)
  o Dual Credit Scholarships for low-income high school students

Censorship and Faculty Restrictions

★ SB 17 -
  o Ban on offices of diversity, equity and inclusion

★ SB 18 -
  o Defines tenure, performance reviews, and broadens grounds for firing

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Q&A
Resources

We All Belong Hub: https://idraseen.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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