

PROPOSED EDUCATION LEGISLATION

OVERVIEW

Basic Allotment: Beginning in 2024-2025 school year, the BA would increase to **\$6,700**.
In every second year of the biennium, the BA would be adjusted for inflation starting in 2026-2027.

Allotments – Increases the weights of various allotments including small/mid-size, comp ed, and more.

School Safety – Anticipated separate HJR and enabling legislation that creates the School Safety Fund.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Teacher Bonus & Salary Increase

- Year 1 – \$4,000 bonus for full-time teachers, nurses, counselors, and librarians.
\$2,000 for part-time teachers, nurses, counselors, and librarians.
- Year 2 – Continuation of pay increases through proposed Basic Allotment growth.

Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program – Establishes a Residency Partnership Allotment, providing up to \$42,000 to districts to pay salaries of teacher residents. Rural and high-need districts could earn more. More funding for special education and bilingual residents.

Election By Teacher To Use Unpaid Leave – Requires districts to adopt a policy that a teacher has the option to take paid leave separately from FMLA due to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of a child.

Classroom Teachers – Children of classroom teachers would be eligible for Pre-K.

Teacher Incentive Allotment: The bill would increase designation amounts under the TIA as follows beginning in 2025-2026:

Designation	National Board Certified	Acknowledged	Recognized	Exemplary	Master
Current Law	\$3-9k	\$0	\$3-9k	\$6-18k	\$12-32k
Draft Bill	\$3-9k	\$3-9k	\$5-15k	\$9-25k	\$12-36k

The high needs and rural factor of the TIA is as follows:

Designation	National Board Certified	Acknowledged	Recognized	Exemplary	Master
Current Law	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$5,000
Draft Bill	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,000

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

SPECIAL EDUCATION - Adds in all funding recommendations from the Special Education Funding Commission with an additional \$750 million investment. Reauthorizes the Autism Grant Funding Program.

- Evaluations component begins in 2024-2025 (\$70+ million).
- Rest of the recommendations take effect in 2025-2026.

EARLY EDUCATION – Funds early literacy initiatives, adds Pre-K to Early Education allotment, and includes Pre-K partnership grants.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION – Adds in all the recommendations from the Virtual Education Commission.

PVS HARDSHIP GRANTS - The bill would also provide Property Value Study Hardship Grants in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years for districts that failed the PVS in the prior school year and is capped at \$60 million.

CHARTER FACILITY FUNDING – Increases cap of charter facility allotment as follows:

Year	Charter Facility Allotment
2023-2024	\$60 million (current law)
2045-2025	\$60 million (current law)
2025-2026	\$108million
2026-2027	\$156 million
2027-2028	\$204 million
2028-2029	\$252 million
2029-2030	\$300 million

95% FUNDING FLOOR – Soft landing for school districts who experience a decline of more than 5% in ADA (2025-2026).

REGIONAL VARIANCE IN PROPERTY INSURANCE COSTS – Addresses rising property and casualty insurance costs facing districts along the coast. Allotment is based on regional variance factor that is tied to previous expenditures on property insurance (2024-2025).

RETIRE/REHIRE – Includes a grant to offset retire/rehire penalties for classroom teachers incurred by local education agencies.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Creates an accountability pause for 2022-2023. Uses the 2022 Accountability Manual for 23-24, 24-25, 25-26.
- Creates an accountability commission and sunsets the entirety of Chapter 39 in August 31, 2026.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

- **ESA Amount:**
 - The ESA amount will be 75 percent of the estimated statewide average amount of funding per student in average daily attendance for the applicable school year, as determined by the commissioner not later than January 15 preceding the applicable school year. Under this bill, the amount would be approximately \$10,500.
 - Money not spent for that year is returned to the CPA to the general fund, funds do not roll over year to year.
 - Homeschool students receive \$1,000.
- **Enrollment Implementation:**
 - Amount of appropriation for the program may not exceed the greater of:
 - the amount of money appropriated for purposes of the program for the preceding biennium; or
 - the amount of money necessary for the biennium to provide the amount specified under Section 29.361 for each participating child and each child on the waiting list.
- **Prioritization:**
 - Students in public school, private school, and homeschool in grades K-12 are eligible to apply.
 - *Priority Group 1* - Children with a disability who are members of a household with total annual income that is at or below 400 percent of federal poverty limit.
 - *Priority Group 2* - Members of a household with a total annual income that is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty limit.
 - *Priority Group 3* - Children who are members of a household with a total annual income that is above 185 percent and below 400 percent of the federal poverty limit.
 - *Priority Group 4* - Children who are members of a household with total annual income that is at or above 400 percent of the federal poverty limit.
- **Expenses Covered:**
 - Accredited private school tuition and fees, higher education tuition and fees, textbooks, instructional materials required by school, costs related to academic assessments, expenses for tutors, transportation, computer hardware/software prescribed by a physician for child's educational benefit, and certain qualified academic-centered before- and after-school programs.
- **ESA Program:**
 - Requires student who accepts the ESA be required to take the state assessment or a nationally norm-reference test that crosswalks to the state assessment; onus on parent for student to sit for the exam.
 - Students who do not perform satisfactorily on the assessment two years in a row are disqualified from the program.
 - TEA shall ensure that each child participating in the program is annually administered each assessment, TEA shall provide CPA the results of the assessment.
 - Requires CPA to audit program participants.
 - If the child leaves the ESA program:
 - Local Education Agency is entitled to receive an amount equal to the amount in the child's account returned to the state.

- Child shall not be considered part of accountability system in remainder of year
- Requires a waitlist to be developed by the CPA and categories of demographics of students.
- Requires CPA to deliver an annual report on efficacy of program.
- Money received under the program may not be used to pay any person who is related to the program participant.
- The program is subject to review the same year TEA goes through the Sunset process in 2029.