

87th Legislature
Bills Filed that Support or Relate to Austin ISD Priorities*
January 22, 2021

Priority	Bill/Author	Supports	Relates to	Status
Oppose any unfunded mandates and infringements on local control, including measures that erode local discretionary money and measures that seek to limit school districts’ ability to have representation before the Texas Legislature and the executive branch of government.	SB 61 by Zaffirini , relating to the creation and duties of the unfunded mandates interagency work group HB 749 by Middleton (SB 234 by Hall companion) – relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying activities.	*	*	Filed
Support legislation that develops and implements a statewide approach to connect all Texans to broadband . Equitable access is an important factor in student performance in traditional learning environments, providing students greater opportunity to research, more fully engage in homework and obtain literacy in technology – a necessary skill for post-secondary success.	HB 425 by Ken King , relating to the use of universal service fund for the provision of broadband service in underserved rural areas SB 154 by Perry , relating to the creation of the broadband office within the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the establishment of a broadband service investment grant program		* *	Filed Filed
Support legislation, including but not limited to, a study that addresses methods to eliminate the disproportionate impact of K-12 suspensions and expulsions on Black and Hispanic students.	HB 38 by Reynolds , HB 382 by Bowers , and SB 77 by Miles , relating to discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyle associated with race HB 353 by Dutton , relating to the consideration of certain student		* *	Filed Filed

	<p>differentials based on sex under the public school accountability system</p> <p>HB 710 by Coleman (companion SB 108 by West), allowing the Lt. Governor or Speaker to request a state agency to prepare a racial disparity impact statement for any bill or joint resolution that directly affects that agency, to be coordinated through the LBB</p> <p>SB 174 by Miles, requiring training materials and resources for a district to use in assisting educators to recognize and respond to situations involving social injustice or violation of civil rights. SBOE to ensure that curriculum emphasizes Constitutional rights to free speech, etc.</p> <p>HB 1113 by Thierry, relating to staff development for public school employees in cultural competence and implicit bias and to discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyle associated with race.</p>		*	Filed
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Education Funding				
Support school funding based on enrollment rather than attendance	HB 1246 by Hinojosa , relating to the use of average enrollment for purposes of the public school finance system.	*		Filed

Support funding to provide appropriate services to students with special needs , including those with dyslexia, autism, speech or language impairments, visual impairments, deafness, and intellectual disabilities.	SB 259 by Menendez , relating to the establishment of a grant program to provide additional resources for public school students with disabilities	*		Filed
Accountability and Assessment				
Support a state accountability system that evaluates school quality and student performance as fairly and accurately as possible, without penalizing schools for factors outside their control. The accountability system should include multiple measures of student performance and growth , rather than an over-reliance on standardized tests, in order to ensure that students are more fully prepared for college, the workforce, or the military upon graduation.	SB 194 by Powell (companion HB 773 by Van Deaver), relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system		*	Filed
	HB 812 by Shaheen , relating to the use of interim testing and adaptive, growth-based assessment instruments for certain required assessments of public school students		*	Filed
Support an alternative accountability plan or option to apply to the Texas Education Agency for a label of “Not Rated: Other” prior to the release of preliminary accountability ratings for campuses that enroll only students who receive special education services and who have intensive cognitive and medical needs.	HB 807 by Hinojosa , relating to evaluation under the state accountability system of school district campuses that enroll certain students who receive special education services.	*		Filed
Support issuing “Report Only” accountability ratings in August of 2021 which will not escalate sanctions and interventions for school year 2021-22, while permitting campuses and districts to appeal to TEA for lighter or no sanctions if significant progress has been made.	TEA announced on 12-10-2020 that A-F ratings would be paused for 2020-21 school year due to the ongoing disruptions associated with COVID-19. The STAAR test will proceed for the 2020-21 school year in order to provide critically important information about individual student learning that teachers			

	and parents can use to help students grow. HB 1192 by Hinojosa – relating to the administration of public school assessment instruments and the temporary suspension of certain accountability determinations for a school district or campus in a school year in which the operations of the district or campus are disrupted as a result of a declared disaster and the requirement to use those assessment instruments as a criterion for promotion or graduation.	*		Filed
Support an accountability system in which TEA informs school districts about the accountability standards no later than the beginning of the school year in which the standards are to be applied.	HB 370 by Gervin-Hawkins - Commissioner rules that affect methods or procedures regarding accountability may be delayed until 2nd school year after they are adopted		*	Filed
Support the continuation of Individual Graduation Committees to allow a student to graduate when the student has successfully completed all curriculum requirements for high school graduation when the student has successfully completed all curriculum requirements for high school graduation and has failed no more than two end-of-course exams.	SB 177 by Seliger , relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements	*		Filed
Transportation				
Support exemptions for public school buses from paying tolls for use of toll roads operated by the state and regional mobility authorities or their contractors.	HB 130 by Rodriguez , relating to a highway toll exemption for public school buses	*		Filed

Local Control and Flexibility				
Oppose legislation that would erode flexibility for Districts of Innovation, including school start and end dates.	HB 612 by Pacheco , relating to the scheduling of the first and last day of school (not before Tuesday after Labor Day or after Friday preceding Memorial Day), except for year-round schools. No exception is provided for Districts of Innovation.	*		Filed
Charter Schools				
Support increased transparency, notice, input and consideration of the state and local district fiscal impact before a charter can be approved or expanded.	HB 438 by Goodwin , relating to the requirements for a request for the revision of a charter for an open-enrollment charter school	*		Filed
	HB 944 by Mary Gonzalez requiring State Board of Education approval for the expansion of an open-enrollment charter school	*		Filed
Support transparency and notice requirements in charter application and amendment requests, including specific locations of proposed new campuses, to provide accurate regional impact on existing traditional public schools and open-enrollment charter schools, as well as sufficient notice and opportunity for analysis and public comment.	HB 438 by Goodwin , relating to the requirements for a request for the revision of a charter for an open-enrollment charter school	*		Filed
	HB 450 by Mary Gonzalez , relating to the establishment of a new open-enrollment charter school or campus and to the expansion of an open-enrollment charter school	*		Filed

Support legislation that requires charter schools to accept all students who wish to enroll, including students with a documented history of discipline problems.	HB 97 by Hinojosa , relating to the admission policy of an open-enrollment charter school	*		Filed
Support legislation that would require the Commissioner before granting a charter expansion, to consider, at a minimum, whether the charter holder has achieved the representations and goals included in its initial charter application.	HB 684 by Mary Gonzalez , relating to the regulation of open-enrollment charter schools and requiring a study comparing and evaluating certain characteristics of open-enrollment charter schools and school districts, including the financial impact of charters on districts required to take action under Ch. 49 to reduce districts' local revenue levels; prohibits charters from using funds for marketing		*	Filed

- Preliminary assessment