

State Board of Education

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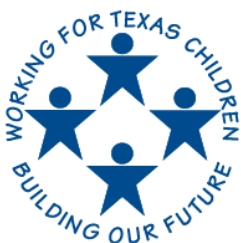
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Texas State Board of Education Proposed 2017 Legislative Recommendations

1. Expand the State Board of Education's authority listed under Texas Education Code §31.023 to review and approve instructional materials beyond 50% of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills coverage, factual errors and applicable physical specifications.

Result:

Senate Bill 801 (Seliger/King, Ken)

Before the SBOE can place instructional materials on the list or adopt supplemental instructional materials, they must determine the book is suitable for the subject and grade level for which it was submitted. Additionally, the material must be reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade for which the material was submitted.

2. Allocate funds to the State Board of Education to support the creation and implementation of a long-range plan as required by Texas Education Code §7.102(c)(1).

Result:

No funds were allocated.

3. Ensure sufficient legislative appropriations to increase staffing at the Texas Education Agency, particularly in the curriculum division, to provide adequate personnel to oversee and support the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills review and implementation process and the textbook adoption process.

Result:

No funds were allocated.

4. Support the Texas Education Agency's Legislative Appropriation Request Exceptional Item to improve student data privacy by: 1) providing resources to the agency to ensure the agency data systems maintain and improve student data privacy, 2) passing requirements for publishers and third-party suppliers to ensure student data privacy and 3) enacting student data privacy guidelines for local districts that include a requirement for local district to adopt a plan to protect student data privacy.

Result:

Rider 75 appropriated one time funding of \$5M for the biennium to support student and teacher data privacy and cybersecurity efforts. It requires the commissioner to allocate funding to the following initiatives: remediation of the teacher certification application; addressing significant gaps in the agency's information security programs; and transferring and securing the student and teacher records from closed charter schools.

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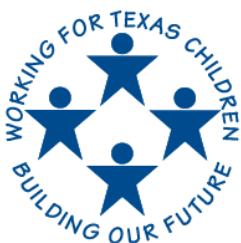
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5. Support the Texas Education Agency's Legislative Appropriations Request Exceptional Item for E-Rate to support funding for high-speed internet infrastructure for classroom connectivity to improve student access to online resources for all Texas students.

Result:

Rider 69 appropriates \$25M out of the Economic Stabilization Fund for the commissioner to distribute \$25M to school districts and charters for qualifying special construction school projects under the E-Rate State Matching Provision or any other similar provision under the E-Rate to ensure the receipt of the federal E-Rate Infrastructure Program available in fiscal year 2018.

6. Remove the limitation on the agency listed under Texas Education Code §7.028 to undertake on-site monitoring of school districts and charters and provide funding for on-site monitoring.

Result:

The prohibition in statute was not removed.

7. Protect the public education funds/services to adequately identify and serve the needs of all special education students by identifying and not limiting the number of students served or funding.

Result:

SB 160 (Rodriguez/Wu)

The bill prohibits the agency and commissioner from adopting or implementing a performance indicator in any agency monitoring system, including PBMAS, that solely measures a school or charters aggregated number or percentage of students who receive special education services. However, the bill does permit the Agency/Commissioner to implement the new federal regulations regarding the analysis of significant disproportionality based on race/ethnicity, disability, placement and discipline.

8. Conserve public free schools and prohibit public dollars from going to private schools or parents/guardians.

Result:

No school choice bills passed this session. Governor Abbott announced a special session starting July 18 in which one of the agenda items is school choice for special needs students.