



89th Texas Legislature

New Legislation
Updates for School Counselors



Introduction



Counselor Support Program Manager

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- College, Career, and Military Preparation Division



My Role

- Serve as primary point of contact for Texas school counselors
- Develop school counseling resources and conduct trainings
- Support the strong implementation of a comprehensive counseling program

- What is your professional role?
- What do you hope to learn from today's session?



Agenda

- Introduction
- Updates
 - High School and Graduation Requirements
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative
 - Health & Safety
 - Instructional Materials
- Conclusion
- Q&A

Objective

The participants will acquire an overview of key K-12 updates from the 89th Texas Legislature and identify resources for more information on these updates.

Questions & Information

- [TEA 89TH Legislature Updates Webpage](#)
- [TEA Help Desk](#)
- [The Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)

High School & Graduation Requirements

Relating to the development of a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average

What the bill does: As soon as practicable, the commissioner is required rather than permitted to develop a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average (GPA) that:

- Grants equal additional weight for non-CTE advanced placement (AP), international baccalaureate (IB), OnRamps dual enrollment, and dual credit courses
- Grants a different amount of additional weight to dual credit CTE courses

School districts will be required to use the standard method developed by the commissioner to compute a student's high school grade point average.

[Curriculum Help Desk](#)

Relating to the creation of an electronic platform and submission portal, known as My Texas Future, to facilitate the awareness and application of public high school students into institutions of higher education using the electronic common admission application form

What the bill does: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is required to create, maintain, and administer MyTexasFuture.org. Students, before graduating from high school, will be required to elect whether to opt-in to allowing THECB to share their data and education records, as necessary, with institutions of higher education (IHE) to allow students to participate in the direct admission program. A student is not required to comply with this requirement if:

- the student's **parent or guardian** signs and submits a form authorizing the student to decline to complete and submit information necessary to participate in the program;
- the student is **18 years** or older and signs and submits the form; or
- a **school counselor** authorizes the student in writing to decline to complete and submit the information necessary to participate in the program.

School districts and charter schools will be required to use a form adopted by THECB, in consultation with TEA, to allow a student to opt out. The form must provide the student or the student's parent or guardian the opportunity to elect whether to share the student's data or education records. The form must also be made available in English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a majority of the students enrolled in a bilingual or ESL program in the district or school.

Applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Relating to courses in personal financial literacy and economics for high school students in public schools

Effective: June 20, 2025

What the bill does: Students will be required to successfully complete a one-half credit personal financial literacy course instead of one-half credit courses currently required to satisfy an economics requirement under the Foundation High School Program.

Students will be able to choose from economics, world geography, and world history to satisfy the third social studies credit required for graduation. The SBOE must allow a student to comply with the personal financial literacy requirement by successfully completing an advanced placement course.

Applies with students who enter grade 9 in the 2026-2027 school year.

[Foundation High School Program](#)

Career and Technical Education

Relating to public education and public school finance

Effective: June 20, 2025

What the bill does: TEA will be required to publish on its website postsecondary outcomes for 10 cohorts of students. District requirements related to adopting CCMR goals are expanded.

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

- JROTC must be included as a **CTE program of study and will generate additional CTE weighted funding.**
- Districts will be required to provide notice to students of JROTC scholarship options.

[CTE Help Desk](#)

Relating to public education and public school finance

Funding

- District funding for **college preparation assessments** will now include a career readiness exam as an option for grade 12 students.
- The per student entitlement for **P-TECH students** will be increased from \$50 to \$150. This entitlement is removed for students enrolled in a new tech network campus.
- Districts and IHEs are prohibited from requiring P-TECH to pay **for dual credit**.
- LEAs are explicitly permitted to pay for **collegiate advising for students the two years after** graduation.

[College and Career Readiness School Models](#)

Relating to college, career, and military readiness in public schools, including career and technology education programs, the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, and the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program, funding for those programs under the Foundation School Program, and workforce reporting to support those programs...

What the bill does: A student is eligible to enroll in a dual credit course at no cost under the FAST program if the student meets FAST eligibility criteria and has graduated from high school but is enrolled in a P-TECH program or an R-PEP program and completing a course of study offered through an articulation agreement or MOU with an Institution of Higher Education (IHE).

TWC is required to collect and TEA is required to publish certain data for students who graduate from high school and for students who did not graduate from high school.

Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership Program (R-PEP)

- The R-PEP funding cap is increased from \$5M to \$20M
- School districts that previously met the R-PEP requirement of less than 1,600 students but no longer meet that requirement will be grandfathered in as eligible for funding.
- TEA is permitted to establish an R-PEP grant program if funds are appropriated.

Post-Secondary Advising

A school counselor shall provide the following information about postsecondary education to high school students/parents:

- career readiness and workforce training opportunities
- a link to the My Texas Future Internet website and information regarding how to create a **profile** on that website

Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program

Effective: June 20, 2025

What the bill does: The new Applied Science Pathways Program allows school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to enter into articulation agreements with institutions of higher education (IHEs) that **enable students to earn a high school diploma and higher education certificates that lead to successful job placement rate in high-wage, high-growth jobs in the following targeted industries:**

- plumbing and pipe fitting
- electrical
- welding
- sheet metal
- carpentry
- masonry
- diesel and heavy equipment
- aviation maintenance
- heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, (HVAC)
- construction management and inspection
- mechanical and aerospace engineering
- industrial maintenance and processes
- robotics and automation
- information technology and cybersecurity
- oil and gas exploration and production
- refining and chemical processes
- transportation distribution and logistics
- manufacturing and industrial technology
- electronics technology
- automotive technology

Courses required to earn a Level I or Level II certificate may be substituted for certain TEKS-based courses required for high school graduation if the content is substantially similar.

Questions



Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative

Relating to rural workforce development

Effective: September 1, 2025

What the bill does: Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in consultation with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), is required to **administer a rural workforce development program to support measurable programs advancing college and career readiness, skill development, and work experience opportunities**. TWC is permitted to award **grants to local entities** to perform activities related to this program and grants for technical assistance to one or more nonprofit organizations with experience in improving outcomes in rural communities in Texas. **TWC will implement rules on this bill.**

[Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Health & Safety

Relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living

Effective: September 1, 2025

What the bill does: School employees are **prohibited**, as a penalty for academic performance or behavior, from **restricting recess or physical activity** for students enrolled in **kindergarten or in a grade below grade six** and **prohibits restricting physical activity for a student** enrolled in grade level six, seven, or eight.

Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, each school district and open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program will be required to provide a one-half credit elective course in nutrition and wellness, using materials approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The SBOE must ensure that a nutrition course is based on nutritional guidelines recommended by the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee.

Relating to parental rights and to certain public school requirements and prohibitions.

What the bill does:

- Clarifies the requirements of local school district grievance processes, including filing and appeal timelines.
- Requires ISDs to post information about their grievance policies online (and provide TEA with webpage), allow grievances to be submitted online, and provide info on how to appeal grievances at each level.
- Districts are required to develop parent engagement policy.
- Districts must have parent participation plans and communicate them annually to parents.
- Districts are required to adopt and implement a policy related to posting of the instructional plan or syllabus for each course taught in the district prior to each semester.
- Districts are required to notify parents within one business day when they suspect that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child.
- Districts are required to notify parents regarding any change in services or monitoring of a student's mental, emotional, or physical health.
- Districts must offer at least two parent-teacher conferences annually, up from one.
- Human sexuality instruction now requires an opt-in.
- DEI is prohibited in school districts.
- Gender Transitioning support from school districts is prohibited.
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity instruction and student clubs are prohibited.
- Due to space, see slide 27 in the [Legislature Updates](#) for the rest of the bill components.

Relating to a school psychologist licensed under the Occupations Code

Effective: September 1, 2025

What the bill does: The term “licensed specialist in school psychology” is replaced with the term “**school psychologist**” in Texas Education Code, Texas Government Code, and Texas Occupations Code.

Relating to the persons who are not eligible for employment at public schools and to child abuse reporting

What the bill does:

This bill updates reporting requirements to SBEC and TEA (including required use of the Misconduct Reporting Portal) to ensure investigation of misconduct allegations.

Superintendents are required to report to SBEC/TEA within 48 hours of the superintendent's awareness of evidence of misconduct towards students/minors by an individual employed by (or seeking employment of) an LEA, charter entity, ESC, shared services arrangement, or service provider.

This bill also updates the child abuse reporting deadline by professionals to DFPS or law enforcement to 24 hours (instead of the 48-hour deadline under current law.) For reports to a law enforcement agency, this bill requires reporting to law enforcement of a municipality, county, or state (and not ISD law enforcement.)

Due to space, see slide 23 in the [Legislature Updates](#) for the rest of the bill components.



Instructional Materials

Relating to the purchase, adoption, and use of instructional materials by public schools

Effective: June 20, 2025

What the bill does: Instructional materials and technology allotment funding and local funding cannot to be used by a school district to purchase instructional materials placed on **the list of rejected instructional materials maintained by the State Board of Education.**

A school district or open-enrollment charter school cannot adopt rejected materials and **the use of rejected materials in classrooms is prohibited.**

Relating to the provision of virtual education in public schools and to certain waivers and modifications by the commissioner of education to the method of calculating average daily attendance in an emergency or crisis for purposes of preserving school district funding entitlements under the Foundation School Program during that emergency or crisis; authorizing a fee

Effective: May 6, 2025

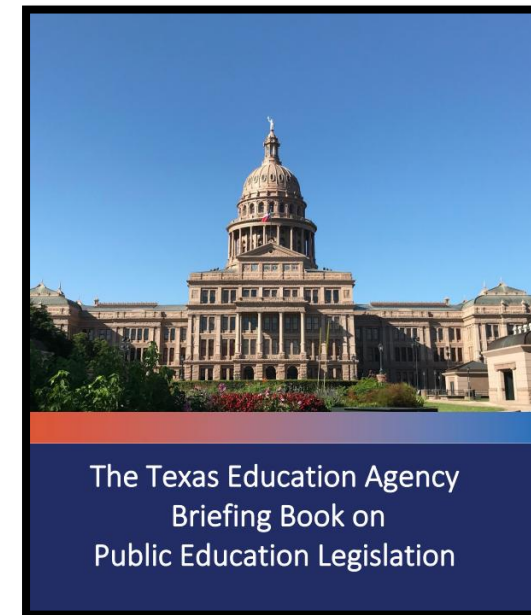
What the bill does: The Texas Virtual School Network authorized under TEC, Chapter 30A will be replaced with new virtual and hybrid campuses, programs, and courses authorized under new TEC, Chapter 30B.

Changes expand the eligibility for districts and charter schools to offer students virtual/hybrid courses and programs and allow the commissioner to authorize high quality full-time virtual and hybrid campuses. The bill

- **establishes requirements for the commissioner's authorization of full-time hybrid/virtual campuses and requires TEA to develop professional development and materials and provide grants and technical assistance to establish high-quality programs;**
- prohibits teachers from providing concurrent instruction to in-person and virtual students and requires that teachers be provided professional development on high-quality virtual instruction;
- establishes a funding structure for students enrolled in virtual/hybrid courses and programs based on average daily attendance and full-time virtual and hybrid campuses based on student enrollment; and
- establishes an expedited authorization process for programs that are currently operating.

Please put your responses in the chat or unmute.

1. What bills do you need more information on?
2. Do you know where to find this information?





Conclusion

Please fill in the presentation survey so I can best meet your counseling needs with future presentations and resources.
Thank you.



We have a Rural School Counseling (RSC) group.

Click on the QR code to learn more and/or sign up to join the group.



School Counselor Resources

- Comprehensive School Counseling
 - [Texas Model training overview and materials- checklist and example CSCP](#)
 - [Texas Model Content and Workgroup training and fillable CSCP](#)
 - Texas Model Admin [training](#) with materials
 - **[Counselor Work Time Supports Hub](#)**
 - Data in School Counseling [training and materials](#)
 - School Counselor-Community Partner Collaboration [presentation](#)
- MTSS in School Counseling
 - Student Wellness Guidance Lessons [training and materials](#)
 - Student Support Group [training and materials](#)
 - Short-Term Individual Counseling [training and materials](#)
 - MTSS in School Counseling Overview: Interventions at Each Tier [presentation](#)
 - Trauma-Informed School Counseling [training and materials](#)
- School Counseling Sites
 - **[Counseling, Advising, & Student Supports Webpage](#)**
 - Texas School Mental Health [website](#)
 - Financial Aid Graduation Requirement [Resources](#) and [FAQs](#)
 - School Counseling [Resources](#) at TEA



Questions & Thank You

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