



88th Legislative Session Board Update

August 28, 2023

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

HB 3928 – Dyslexia Evaluations, Identification & Instruction

- Bill states that districts are not allowed to make a distinction between standard protocol dyslexia and other types of direct dyslexia instruction, including Specially Designed Instruction (SDI).
- The evaluation team and any initial ARD team must include a person with specific knowledge regarding the reading process, dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction. This individual must hold a dyslexia licence or the most advanced certification issued by State Board of Education (SBEC).

HB 3908 – Fentanyl Abuse Awareness

- Requires annual research-based instruction related to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness to students in grades 6-12.

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

HB 1416 – HB 4545 (87R)

Some key changes are-

Reduces the requirement for accelerated instruction to 2 content areas annually and prioritizes Math and Reading.

Reduced assignment of 30 hours of accelerated instruction to 15 hours of accelerated instruction in some cases.

There are 3 provisions that require districts to provide 30 hours of accelerated instruction. These include:

- **Any student who fails the same content area exam for 2 or more consecutive years.**
- **Any student who earns a “low does not meet” criteria on any exam.**
- **TEA guidance requires 30 hours be provided to any student who fails the reading or math exam in 3rd grade.**

***Parents can opt out or reduce hours**

***ARD committee decision for special populations students**

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

SB 2124 – Advanced Mathematics

- Schools must enroll 6th grade students in an advanced math course if they performed in the top 40% of the state on the 5th grade STAAR math assessment or similar local measures.
- This will require advanced math courses (e.g., Alg I) be offered in middle school. **(already in place in MISD).**
 - ***Parents may opt their children out of this requirement.**

HB 3803 – Parental Election for a Child to Repeat a Course

- A parent or guardian may elect for a student in a grade up to grade 8 to repeat the grade or for a student to repeat a high school course.
- For high school courses, the school district/open enrollment charter can deny if it is determined the student has met all requirements for graduation.

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

HB 900 – READER Act

(Removing Explicit and Adult Designated Educational Resources)

- Texas State Library Archives Commission mandatory rules for library collection with State Board of Education approval
- Vendors are responsible for rating library materials, not librarians or any other district staff.
- Ratings are only applied to material vendors determines meet the definitions of sexually relevant or sexually explicit as defined by law.
- Books and materials rated sexually explicit must be removed, and books rated sexually relevant must have parental consent for a student to check out.

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

HB 900 Timeline

- **January 1, 2024** - Texas State Library AC mandatory collection development standards, approved by SBOE, final
- **April 1, 2024**- Vendors provide initial list of materials they rated sexually explicit or sexually relevant to Texas Education Agency. Materials rated sexually explicit must be removed from school libraries
- **September 1, 2024** -Vendors provide updated list of materials they have rated to TEA
- **January 1, 2025** -School districts review vendor rated sexually relevant material in their current collection and post a report on their website

What Passed?

Learning and Instruction

HB 900- MISD

- Under this bill school districts can operate under existing, approved procurement, collection development and reconsideration policies this school year 2023-24.
- MISD has conducted our own collection review at the secondary campuses to ensure alignment with EFB local. The books not in alignment with EFB local are currently being removed from district libraries. This list of books will be posted to the MISD website by September 29, 2023.

What Passed?

Safety

SB 838 –Safety

- Requires districts to provide each classroom with silent panic alert technology.
(2025-2026 school year)

HB 3– Safety Bill

- School safety bill, includes the requirement that districts have at least one armed security officer per campus.

Special thanks to MISD board members for taking immediate action on this bill as of August 14, 2023, and approving Safety and Security's multi-layered model to ensure that each of our elementary campuses have armed guardians present at all times.

What Passed?

Student Discipline

HB 114– Mandatory DAEP Placement

- Requires a student be placed in a disciplinary alternative education program if the student possesses, uses, sells, distributes, or delivers an e-cigarette within 300 feet of school property or at a school related event.

***This bill goes into effect on September 1, 2023.**

“Everything schools do is affected by the state legislature. It is imperative to pay attention to proposed legislation and how it will affect public education. School communities must build positive relationships with legislators and involve ALL stakeholders in the process.”

~Debbie Gillespie, Texas Association of School Boards



