

DFER TX 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES



Strengthen the Teacher Workforce



- Create and fund **multiple pathways** to teacher certification, including an allotment to support **teacher residencies and apprenticeships** for beginning teachers.
- **Expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment** to let more teachers access the potential to earn a six-figure salary, and support **strategic staffing** initiatives.
- **Waive certification fees** for high-need certification areas.
- Increase the **Mentor Program Allotment**.

Invest in Early Education



- Require **regular screening, identification, and progress monitoring** for K-3rd graders and require delivery of evidence-based, tailored intervention to struggling students.
- Require prompt notification of screening results to parents, coupled with easy to use, **at-home resources**.
- Increase access to **instructional coaches and professional development**.
- Expand the **Early Education Allotment** to include eligible Pre-K students to generate more funding for early childhood initiatives.

Increase School Funding



- **Increase the basic allotment and index** it to an inflationary measure to ensure consistent funding increases that coincide with rising costs.
- Transition to a tiered, intensity-based funding formula for **special education**, along with other recommendations from the **Texas Commission on Special Education Funding**.
- **Avoid** the creation of educational savings accounts and/or vouchers.
- Increase, expand, and/or create the following allotments:
Early Education Allotment, State Compensatory Education Allotment, Residency Program Allotment, School Safety Allotment.

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Spur Meaningful Innovation



- **Lift or increase the cap on facilities funding** for open-enrollment, public charter schools.
- Create a statutory framework for high-quality **virtual education** and pass the recommendations from the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education**.
- Study the use and effectiveness of **Texas Partnerships** to turnaround and innovate school systems.

Protect Assessment and Accountability



- **Avoid major changes to assessment** while the Texas Through-Year Assessment Pilot is in motion, and continue to explore opportunities to reduce testing time and maximize testing results to inform instruction.
- Ensure that **A-F accountability ratings are administered**.
- Keep the accountability system **outcomes-focused**, avoiding the addition of indicators that would **reward inequities**.

Support Postsecondary Access and Completion



- **“Clean Up” HB 8 (88R)** by allowing **the transfer to a private institution of higher education** to generate outcomes-based funding.
- Increase access to **work-based learning opportunities** and **advanced coursework** while students are in high school.
- Strengthen **Tri-Agency collaboration** and **postsecondary pathways** by supporting data modernization initiatives and improved transfer/credit mobility.
- Increase funding for the **Rural Pathway Excellence Partnerships (R-PEP)** program and ensure that interested partnerships can access **technical assistance** funding.