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## SENATE ED 4.20.21

The Senate Education Committee met on Tuesday, April 20th to consider several bills and vote on pending business.

### TSTA SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

[SB 1277](#) by West: would require any dual credit agreement between a school district and an institution of higher education to designate a person who would provide academic advising to student before enrolling.

[SB 1351](#) by Miles: would allow for the donation of food by public school campuses.

### TSTA OPPOSED THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

[SB 215](#) by Bettencourt: would create an office of the inspector general appointed by the Commissioner and housed within the Texas Education Agency.

[SB 1716](#) by Taylor: would attempt to codify temporary special education vouchers which were put in place by the Governor last fall. Under the proposed Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES), parents of students with special needs could apply for vouchers of up to \$1,500 to spend on supplemental services.

[SB 1955](#) by Taylor: would exempt “learning pods” (organized learning groups for home-schooling) from a myriad of requirements in the education code, including class-size ratios, on-site inspections, reporting requirements, certification requirements, and background checks.

### THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED:

[SB 879](#) by Lucio: would change the age requirement for dropout recovery programs for accountability purposes.

[SB 980](#) by Powell: would require the Texas Education Agency to create a program that districts may choose to opt into that would provide for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention at elementary campuses.

[SB 2044](#) by Menendez: would establish the State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to provide for coordination among state agencies, school districts, and military installations concerning the state’s participation in and compliance with the compact and compact activities.

[SB 2050](#) by Menedez, which was also voted out of the committee and sent to the full senate: would require school districts to adopt policies on bullying prevention and assistance that are currently optional.

### THE COMMITTEE ALSO VOTED OUT AND RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING BILLS TO THE FULL SENATE:

SB 27 by Taylor: A TSTA-opposed bill which would allow for an incredible expansion of full-time virtual schools in Texas and divert taxpayer dollars meant for public education towards vendors. The bill passed out of the committee with two votes against and one member “present not voting.”

SB 741 by Birdwell: a TSTA-opposed bill which would allow school marshals to carry a concealed handgun, even if they are in regular, direct contact with children.

SB 776 by Lucio: would require UIL to create an adaptive sports program for students with disabilities.

SB 2066 by Menendez: a TSTA-supported bill that would update the term “limited English proficiency” to “emergent bilingual students” in the Texas Education Code.

SB 2158 by Campbell: would require the Texas Education Agency to provide at-home fingerprinting and DNA kits for access by parents of elementary school students.