The House Committee on Public Education chair, Representative Dutton, has elected to cease public hearings for the remainder of session. This means that all pending and referred business will be laid out and voted on by committee members without any opportunity for public testimony.

The first of these “formals” to consider new business took place on Tuesday of this week. Although an agenda was not shared with members until the very last minute, 16 bills were slated to be considered, and 15 ended up being voted on.

SB 2050, which would require districts to adopt policies concerning bullying, included a provision that would also require annual bullying prevention trainings for teachers. Because TSTA is opposed to statutorily dumping trainings on teachers, especially trainings with arbitrary frequency requirements, we worked to temporarily remove this bill from consideration and are working with the author and House sponsor to draft substitute language that would strike the bullying prevention training requirement and instead leave the decision up to local districts. This change would align with the legislative recommendations of the Teacher Workforce Committee, in which TSTA is actively engaged, relating to educator professional development.

Three bills failed to pass out of committee, and twelve passed on to the House floor.

Of those that failed, SB 28 failed on a 4-6 vote and is a real win, as it is a bill we have been fighting since its hearing in Senate Education. SB28 would have exempted charter schools from municipal zoning laws and substantially limited the participation of elected State Board of Education leaders in the approval of charter schools.

SB 347, which failed by just one vote, would have required districts to make school health advisory councils a government entity and therefore subject to the open records act.

SB 1696 would have required districts to share information regarding cyber-attacks or other cybersecurity incidents occurring in schools. The committee substitute exempted all charter schools from this requirement and was voted down by all committee members except Rep. Bell and Rep. Buckley.

Twelve bills passed out of committee this week:

- **SB 168** passed 9-0 and would require districts to adopt trauma-informed methods and policies regarding active shooter drills. TSTA worked closely with Sen. Blanco’s office on this piece of legislation and submitted testimony.
- **SB 560** passed 9-0 and would commission TEA, THECB, and TWC to create a strategic plan to improve bilingual education in Texas. TSTA supported this legislation.
- **SB 1590** passed 9-2 (Allen and M. González) and would permit virtual observations for pre-service educators. TSTA opposed this bill and maintains that remote instruction should be limited to a declared state of disaster.
• **SB 226** passed 9-0 and would require instruction in educator training to include training in digital and virtual learning.

• **SB 462** passed 9-0 and would reimburse districts under the transportation allotment for transporting meals and instructional materials to students during a declared state of disaster.

• **SB 746** passed 10-0 and would require parents to provide and update parent contact info.

• **SB 797** passed 5-1-3 PNV and would require schools to display the national motto “in God we trust” in a prominent place if gifted to the school.

• **SB 1063** passed 11-0 and would permit high school students to satisfy a social studies credit with a course that is one semester economics and one semester personal financial literacy.

• **SB 1356** passed 11-0 and would establish tutor clearinghouse programs.

• **SB 1436** passed 11-0 and would allow eligible property owners to join school districts in property tax protests and appeals.

• **SB 1522** passed 9-0 and would provide limits on hold-harmless funding during a natural disaster.

• **SB 1831** passed 11-0 and would require districts to post warning signs for trafficking penalties on school buildings.