THURSDAY, MAY 13, HOUSE FLOOR

Bills that were not addressed by end-of-day Thursday are effectively dead. Some of the bills of note — either because TSTA specifically supported or opposed them — that did not meet the deadline include:

**HB 24** by Dominguez, relating to funding for school districts to provide inclusive playgrounds — we supported

**HB 392** by Bowers, relating to protections against discrimination based on hair — we supported with testimony

**HB 2846** by Coleman, relating to the notification requirement if a school does not have a nurse — we supported

**HB 3346** by Meza, relating to adding indicators of achievement beyond STAAR for elementary schools — we supported with testimony

**HB 2230** by Bucy, relating to a commission to study the benefits of the arts in education — we supported

**HB 81** by Rodriguez, relating to permitting the use of community schools as a turnaround plan option — we supported

**HB 3450** by White, relating to permitting corporal punishment and the use of force “to educate and train” — we opposed

**HB 2021** by Bonnen, relating to the select committee to determine acceptance and use of federal relief funds — we opposed with testimony

**HB 1144** by Ramos, relating to suicide prevention policies — we stayed neutral but were wary of required annual professional development

**TSTA OPPOSES**

**HB 4545** by Dutton, which has been called for reconsideration — passed 82/63

- Despite inaccurate assertions, HB 4545 is unnecessary — districts CAN use funds under American Rescue Plan (ARP) and clear guidance from the USDE to address learning loss. Texas politics has arrested a process to serve students that almost every other state has already begun.
- Although outcomes-based funding elements have been removed, they were the author’s intent and he would not commit to keeping those elements out of the bill.

ARP ESSER Fact Sheet
District Allocation of Funds

**HB 2554** by Gates, related to the establishment of a joint vocational charter system — passed to 3rd reading, no RV, no debate
• Would establish fully “vocational” charter districts that would operate outside of the foundation high school program
• Would codify segregation by establishing different campuses/expectations/coursework/diploma for select student profiles
• Would track and stratify high schools, post-secondary, and the workforce
• Would reverse decades of progress related to providing students access to CTE pathways without tracking them out of academic pathways

HB 4525 by Gates, related to CTE course approval
• Would require the SBOE to approve CTE courses that are offered online
• Limits authority of elected officials
• We disagree that online learning should extend beyond existing VSN network or in a declared state of disaster

HB 59 by Murr, relating prohibiting an ISD from imposing an M&O property tax

HB 3450 by White, relating to the justified use of force against a student
• Would permit corporal punishment and the use of force “to control, train, or educate students”

TSTA SUPPORTS

HB 144 by M. González, related to supplemental information in IEPs for special needs students (3rd reading) — passed 145/0

HB 2802 by Dean, related to suspending accountability during a declared state of disaster (3rd reading) — passed 141/2

HB 2344 by Zwiener, related to authentic portfolio writing assessments (3rd reading) — passed 107/35

HB 3298 by Allison, related to increasing computer science instruction in schools and professional development opportunities for teachers (3rd reading) — passed 111/31

HB 3346 by Meza, relating to indicators of achievement – TESTIMONY ATTACHED
• Would grade elementary schools on factors beyond STAAR
• Texas currently disregards the ESSA flexibility to measure schools based on a range of factors and relies heavily on STAAR
• Would advance the realization that schools are much more than a standardized test

HB 3880 by Dutton, related to the diagnosis and instruction of dyslexic students – TESTIMONY ATTACHED – passed 143/0, amended to be renamed the Beckley Wilson Act, honoring one of the testifiers, a dyslexic child. Dutton said of all the thousands of testimonies he’s listened to, this 12yr old’s was the best.
• Would better serve dyslexic students by expanding access to certified academic language therapy and special education funding and supports

HB 1754 by Hernandez, related to including suicide prevention information on student ID cards — passed to 3rd, no RV
HB 1744 by Guerra, relating to increasing the bilingual teacher workforce — passed to 3rd

HB 3430 by Landgraf, related to supporting community schools — postponed to June

- Legislative energy should focus on increasing resources and wrap-around services to schools in need rather than implementing punitive measures such as state or charter takeover that “work” only because the student body changes.

HB 41 by Talarico, relating to class size limits in PK — passed to 3rd no RV

HB 81 by Rodriguez, relating to permitting campus turnaround plans to include community school operation

- A card was dropped against HB 81 in our name in error, Rep. Rodriguez has full support from TSTA for this bill.

HB 2230 by Bucy, would commission a study on the benefits of incorporating the arts in education

HB 3889 by Morales-Shaw, relating to student cost for broadband internet access program offered by TEA — passed to 3rd

HB 244 by M. González, relating to establishing a grant program for promoting computer science certification — passed to 3rd

HB 392 by Bowers, relating to discrimination based on hair

TSTA IS NEUTRAL (WITH CONCERNS)

HB 2391 by Dominguez, related to weighted lotteries — passed to 3rd no RV

- The bill’s purported intent is to increase special ed populations in charter schools but is flawed because of the inherent difference between admission and enrollment in charter schools — a weighted lottery affects admission only, but it is during the enrollment process that charter schools can and do selectively refuse harder-educate students.

HB 1302, related to indicators of achievement — passed to 3rd with 3 amendments that don’t address these concerns

- Would incentivize grade promotion for advanced students, which we do not agree is in the best interest of most students
- Would privilege campuses with higher gifted and talented identification, which is unrelated to education inputs and should not be rewarded

HB 1144 by Ramos, relating to suicide prevention policies

- This bill would require annual training of educators in suicide prevention, which goes against the recommendations brought forth by the Teacher Workforce Commission and resulting legislation HB 3804/SB 1267
- Training educators ahead of providing needed mental health and counselor staffing supports misses the issue
TSTA is NEUTRAL

HB 547 by Frank, related to access by home schooled students to UIL-sponsored activities (3rd reading) — passed 80/64

HB 1568 by Middleton, related to school district property value study (3rd) — passed 129/16

HB 2022 by Darby, related to enrollment of retirees in Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program — passed to 3rd, no RV

HB 4509 by Bonnen, related to instruction in informed patriotism — passed to 3rd no RV with amendments: adding 2 Frederick Douglas speeches and all of MLK’s I Have a Dream; defining informed patriotism in a way that guards against blind allegiance.

HB 2874 by Anchia, related to requiring schools to issue student ID cards — passed to 3rd

HB 2769 by Campos, related to establishing TEKS for video game coding — passed to 3rd

HB 605 by Gervin-Hawkins, related to school safe water plan

HB 586 by Cole, relating to the creation of a state financing system to assist school districts with certain expenses

HB 2860 by Bucy, relating to the posting of trustee election information on district websites

HB 2664 by A. Martinez, relating to authority of ISD to change date of general election — passed 3rd 118/25

HB 1032 by Thierry, relating to workforce training — passed to 3rd

HB 2681 by Wilson, relating to Bible course electives — passed to 3rd