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Gina Hinojosa



# GINA HINOJOSA



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 49

January 30, 2023

Members:

I invite you to sign on as a co-author to HB 31- our "Enrollment Based Funding" bill. The Co-Author sheet is available in the Clerk's Office for your signature. Please see below for more information.

Thank you,

Gina Hinojosa

Texas State Representative, District 49

## BACKGROUND

- Texas is one of only 6 states in the country that uses average-daily-attendance (ADA) to calculate funding for its public schools. In other words, Texas shortchanges our schools by deducting funding for absences. School districts must hire teachers and incur expenses for 100% of the students enrolled in the district, and they are required to meet accountability standards for their entire, enrolled student population, regardless of whether or not students are absent. Texas can fully fund our schools and the actual expenses our school districts incur by adopting an enrollment based funding formula.
- Basing funding on attendance disproportionately penalizes schools that serve a large number of children from low income families and children who are more likely to suffer chronic health issues. When low income students miss school, the district loses out on the resources needed to keep them on track and address issues of chronic absenteeism.
  - Using funding to incentivize attendance is based on the unfounded assumption that lagging attendance is voluntary and the primary cause is truancy. However, research shows childhood poverty and chronic health issues play a large role in absenteeism.
    - Examples of obstacles that contribute to absenteeism include housing instability, transportation issues, working parents unable to get kids to school on time, children with asthma, learning disabilities, etc.
- By changing our school finance system to a formula that uses average enrollment, the state will finally provide school districts with full funding for all the students they serve, allowing them to provide a comprehensive education that meets the state's academic standards.
- **Joint Authors:** Shine, Guerra
- **Senate Companion:** SB 263 by Johnson

## SUPPORT



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P.O. Box 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • PHONE (512) 463-0668 • FAX (512) 463-8022  
GINA.HINOJOSA@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV



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