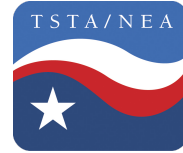




**Texas Center for
Justice & Equity**
SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE, HEALTH
JUST COMMUNITIES



Support School Safety and Mental Health:

VOTE NO ON CSSB 11

CSSB 11 as reported out of House Public Education is very different from the bill the Senate signed off on. CSSB 11 has incorporated very problematic aspects of HB 13 and SB 11 as filed.

We urge the legislature to reject the harmful provisions in CSSB 11 and instead invest in evidence-based practices and resources that support students and educators, address the root causes of targeted school violence, and strengthen school communities.

Key Changes

- Section 13 of the bill re-introduces a “School Sentinel Program,” which incentivizes educators to carry guns on school grounds in exchange for an up to \$25,000 stipend from HB 13. This is a dangerous proposal that will not stop targeted school violence and instead could lead to guns falling into the wrong hands in schools, like at one West Texas school where a third grader found the gun of an armed administrator in the bathroom.¹ Similar stories have been reported from dozens of districts across the state and nation.²
- Section 17 of the bill reverts back to SB 11’s original language allowing TEA to appoint a “conservator or board of managers under Chapter 39A” if a district fails to comply with school safety standards.
- Section 29 contains a confusing provision creating a “fund” for the commissioner to disburse, which can be used for “grants to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to enhance school safety under Section 47A.005.” **IF** there is excess money, there are many other programs, services, and costs that should be funded as opposed to school hardening.

Vote NO on CSSB 11, and instead **SUPPORT CSHB 3** as passed out of the Senate.

Safe schools are built and maintained through strong, enduring relationships between diverse staff, educators, students and families within the school community, not through an increased presence of armed personnel.

¹ Texas Tribune, Texas superintendent resigns after student finds his gun in school bathroom. Feb. 23, 2023. <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/02/23/texas-superintendent-gun-school-safety/>

² Kelly Drane, Every Incident of Mishandled Guns in Schools. April 7, 2023. <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/every-incident-of-mishandled-guns-in-schools/>