Texas Ed BRIEF
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2027 Legislative Session Survival Guide

Key dates, the new political map, the education issues already on the table, and a practical playbook for school leaders working with lawmakers during the 90th Legislature.

Current as of November 13, 2026 · Bill filing opened November 9, 2026 · Check texasedbrief.org for updates

01 KEY DATES FOR THE 90TH LEGISLATURE

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS	WHY IT MATTERS TO DISTRICTS
Nov 9, 2026	Bill pre-filing opened	Start tracking bills now; early bills signal priorities.
Jan 12, 2027 (noon)	90th Regular Session convenes	House elects a new Speaker on day one.
Jan 19, 2027	Governor-elect is inaugurated	Emergency items and budget priorities follow.
Mar 12, 2027	Last day to file most bills (60th day)	After this, new ideas ride as amendments.
May 14, 2027	House last day for House bills on 3rd reading	House bills that miss this deadline generally die.
May 26, 2027	House last day for Senate bills on 3rd reading	Final House action on Senate bills.
May 30, 2027	Last day to adopt conference committee reports	School finance usually lands here.
May 31, 2027	Sine die: session ends; veto period begins	Start implementation planning.
Sept 1, 2027	Usual effective date for bills without a specific date	Many new requirements hit the 2027-28 school year.

Sources: Texas Legislative Council *Dates of Interest*; Texas Policy Research legislative calendar; Fox 4 (inauguration timeline). The Sept 1 rule follows Tex. Const. art. III, §39 (91st day after adjournment). Bills passed by a two-thirds vote can take effect immediately.

02 THE NEW POLITICAL MAP

Governor

Governor-elect **Gina Hinojosa** (D) takes office at noon on Jan 19, 2027. She has said she will replace Education Commissioner Mike Morath, whose term ends before she takes office.

Lieutenant Governor (presides over the Senate)

Lt. Governor-elect **Vikki Goodwin** (D) defeated incumbent Dan Patrick. The Lt. Governor sets up Senate committees and refers bills to them.

Texas House

Democrats won control of the House and will elect a new Speaker to replace Dustin Burrows (R). The state budget bill originates in the House this session.

Texas Senate

Republicans kept the Senate, **19–12**. A bill must pass both chambers, so most education legislation will need bipartisan support.

Sources: Courthouse News; ABC13; KBTX; Community Impact; KXAN; Texas Tribune (Nov 2026).

03 EDUCATION ISSUES ALREADY ON THE TABLE

- [ ] **Basic allotment. HB 178** (Rep. Donna Howard) would raise the basic allotment from $6,215 to $7,500 per student and index it to inflation. HB 2 (2025) raised it by only $55, from $6,160.
- [ ] **Education savings accounts (TEFA).** Democrats filed bills to repeal the $1 billion program. The Comptroller has asked lawmakers to double its funding. In 2026-27, about 85,000+ students used accounts worth $10,474 each at private schools.
- [ ] **Enrollment decline.** TEA data show statewide enrollment fell by more than 76,000 students in 2025-26. Because funding follows attendance, this affects district budgets directly.
- [ ] **Texas Classroom Commission.** Its recommendations on cellphones, classroom technology, teacher workload, discipline, and academic performance may become bills.
- [ ] **HB 2 (2025) follow-up.** Expect bills on the teacher and support-staff retention allotments, special education funding (service-intensity model), and CCMR.
- [ ] **Leadership change at TEA.** A new commissioner could change the direction of accountability, takeovers, and rulemaking.

Bills change quickly. Before you act, check status, author, and text on Texas Legislature Online (capitol.texas.gov).

04 HOW A BILL MOVES (AND WHERE YOU CAN WEIGH IN)

#	STAGE	YOUR BEST MOVE
1	Filed and referred to committee	Read the bill text and the fiscal note. Tell your legislator how it would affect your district.

#	STAGE	YOUR BEST MOVE
2	Committee hearing	This is your biggest window. Submit written or in-person testimony and register a position.
3	Committee vote and report	Ask committee members to support or amend the bill. A specific fix you offer beats general opposition.
4	Floor debate (2nd and 3rd reading)	Short, local-impact messages to your own House member or senator.
5	Second chamber (repeat steps 1–4)	Re-engage. Bills often change in the second chamber.
6	Conference committee (if versions differ)	Work through your associations (TASA, TASB, TASBO, Raise Your Hand Texas, and others).
7	Governor: sign, veto, or let become law	Begin implementation planning; watch TEA "To the Administrator Addressed" (TAA) letters.

05 HOW TO READ A FISCAL NOTE IN 5 MINUTES

- **Bottom line:** Is the cost to the state General Revenue positive or negative over the biennium?
- **Local government impact:** Look for the paragraph on school districts. "No significant fiscal implication" may still mean real local costs.
- **Assumptions:** Check the per-student or per-campus figures the Legislative Budget Board used, and run your own district's numbers.
- **Effective date:** Does the cost start in FY 2028 (the 2027-28 school year)?
- **Version:** Fiscal notes are updated for each version of a bill (introduced, committee substitute, engrossed, enrolled). Use the latest one.

06 THE SUPERINTENDENT'S LEGISLATOR PLAYBOOK

Before January

- Find your House member and senator at *wrm.capitol.texas.gov*.
- Invite them to visit a campus before session starts.
- Give them a one-page district profile: enrollment trend, budget gap, staffing, and TEFA impact.

During session

- Keep each message to one issue and one ask, with one local number to back it up.
- Build relationships with staff (chiefs of staff and education policy aides).
- Thank lawmakers publicly when they help you.

Stay on the right side of the law

- Texas Election Code §255.003 bars using district funds for **political advertising**. Factual information about a bill's impact is generally fine, but avoid urging a vote for or against a candidate or measure with district resources.
- Employees may advocate on their own time with their own resources.
- Follow your board policy on legislative communication, and coordinate with your board president.

Have your school attorney review any district-funded communication about pending legislation.

07 WHERE TO TRACK THE SESSION

- **Texas Legislature Online** (capitol.texas.gov): bill text, fiscal notes, committee hearings, and email alerts.
- **TEA 89th/90th Legislature pages**: implementation timelines and TAA letters.
- **Association updates**: TASA, TASB, TASBO, ATPE, Raise Your Hand Texas.
- **Texas Ed Brief**: twice-weekly news built for Texas school leaders (texasedbrief.org).

Get session updates twice a week. Texas Ed Brief arrives every Tuesday and Friday. Share it with your leadership team: **texasedbrief.org/subscribe**

Sources

- Texas Legislative Council, Dates of Interest: tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/Dates-of-Interest.pdf
- Texas Policy Research, Legislative Calendar, 90th Session: texaspolicyresearch.com
- Texas Tribune, "Texas Legislature 90th session bill filing begins," Nov 9, 2026
- Fox 26 Houston, Texas bills target school funding (HB 178), Nov 2026
- Courthouse News, Hinojosa transition, Nov 2026; Fox 4, constitutional timeline
- KBTX, Goodwin elected Lt. Governor, Nov 6, 2026; KXAN, divided Legislature preview
- IDRA, Major Elements in HB 2 (Sept 2025); Community Impact, TEFA enrollment (Aug 2026) and Comptroller funding request
- Community Impact, 90th session issues (enrollment decline, Texas Classroom Commission)

This guide summarizes publicly available information for planning purposes. It is not legal advice. Dates and bill details can change; confirm with Texas Legislature Online and your school attorney. © 2026 Texas Ed Brief · Education Administrative Resources, LLC.

📌 KEY RESOURCES

Texas Legislature Online: bills, fiscal notes, hearings
capitol.texas.gov

Who Represents Me: find your legislators
wrm.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Legislative Council: session dates
tlc.texas.gov

Legislative Budget Board: fiscal notes and budget
lbb.texas.gov

TEA legislative updates and implementation
tea.texas.gov/89th

Texas statutes online
statutes.capitol.texas.gov

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