

TASP

84th Legislative Session Update

Marty De Leon

Escamilla & Poneck, LLP

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When the 84th Session started...

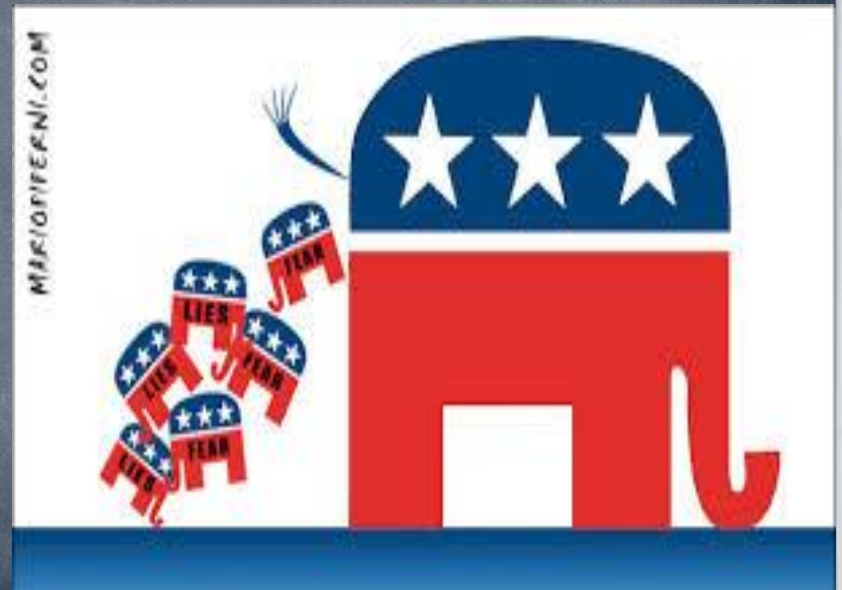
\$18B surplus
in the bank



More Republicans in office, more conservative leadership

Top Priorities:

- ✓ Open Carry
- ✓ Border Security
- ✓ Property Taxes
- ✓ Religious Freedom



Open Carry is back...



And campus carry passed, too...

Guns up,
Delta House !!



When Harry Met Harry...

Pastors may have a slice of this cake...or not



SB 1 – Property Tax Relief

- Increases Homestead Exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000 (cost \$1.2B)

Note: **\$10 savings monthly** - enough for a Big Mac every month!

extra value meals Includes medium fries & medium fountain drink.

1 Big Mac®
6.79 meal 3.99 sandwich
920-1160 Cal. 540 Cal.

2 2 Cheeseburgers
5.99 meal 3.18 2 sandwiches
980-1220 Cal. 600 Cal. 2 sandwiches

3 Quarter Pounder®
with cheese
6.79 meal 3.89 sandwich
890-1130 Cal. 510 Cal.

4 Double Quarter Pounder®
with cheese
7.39 meal 4.59 sandwich
1120-1360 Cal. 740 Cal.

5 Angus Deluxe
6.89 meal 4.19 sandwich
1140-1380 Cal. 760 Cal.

6 Angus Bacon & Cheese
6.89 meal 3.99 sandwich
1200-1440 Cal. 820 Cal.

7 Angus Mushroom & Swiss
6.89 meal 4.09 sandwich
1200-1440 Cal. 820 Cal.

Large fries and large fountain drink add 0.50 500-850 Cal. + sandwich

Major Education Bills Passed



HB 1 - General Appropriations Act

- **\$1.2B - Foundation School Program**
- \$2.3B - Enrollment Growth (85K new students)
- \$1.057B - Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA)



SB 149 – Individual Graduation Committees (IGC)

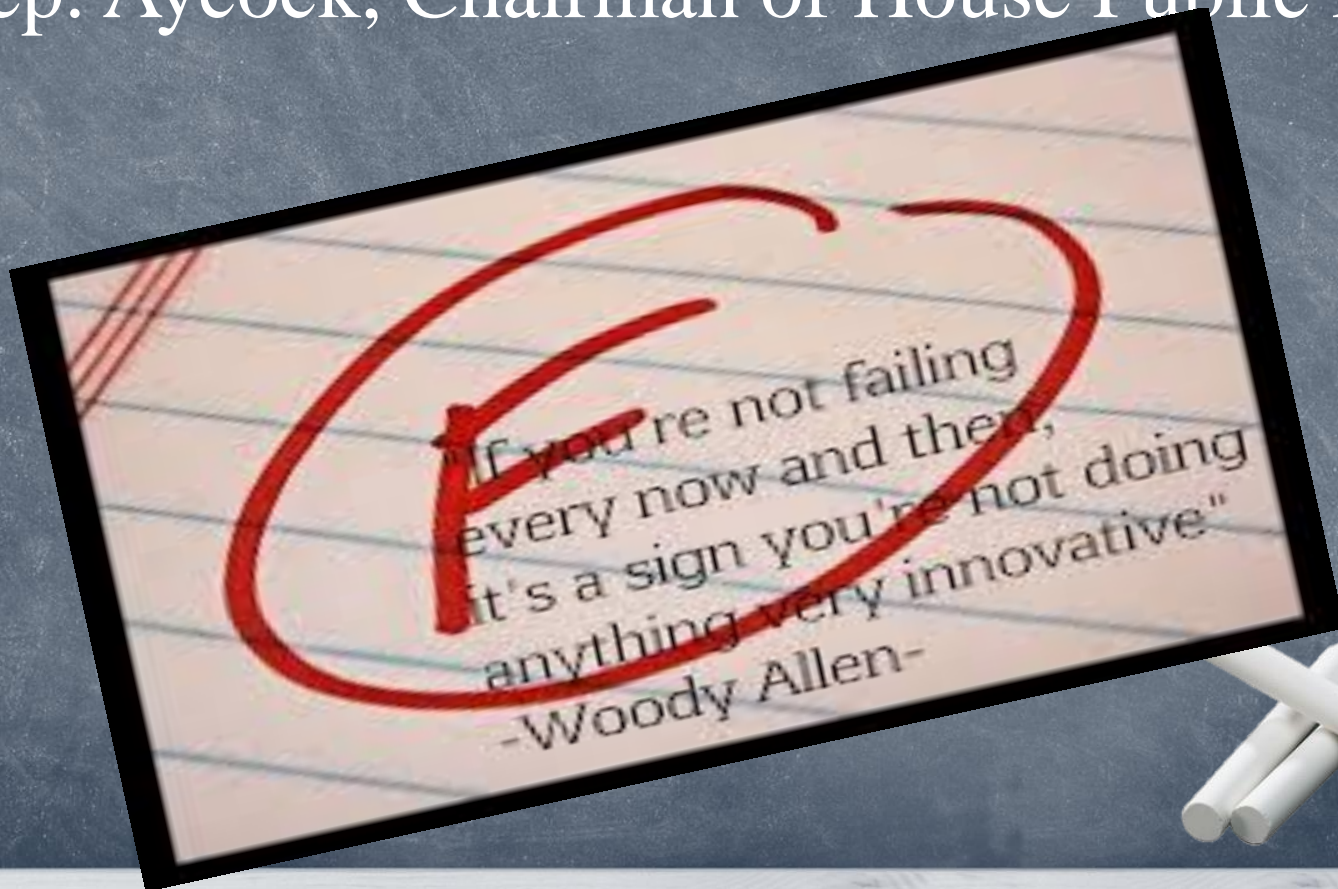
- Establishes IGCs
- **Pass 3 out of 5 EOCs and walk the stage?**
- Applies to Class of 2015 and Class of 2016 only
- IGCs include:
 - principal or designee,
 - teacher of relevant course(s),
 - dept. chair/other, and
 - parent/guardian



HB 2804 – Letter Grades for Schools (A-F)

“We gotta call ’em something.” –

Rep. Aycok, Chairman of House Public Ed



HB 2804 – Amended Accountability System

- ISDs/ campuses will each receive letter grades in 2017-2018 school year
- **Key Provision:** TEA must model 2015-2016 school year
- **What does it all mean?**
 - Test scores are worth 55% (**not 100% anymore**)
 - **Non-testing** items are worth 45%



HB 2804 – Let's play



- ✓ Fine Arts
- ✓ **Wellness and PE**
- ✓ **Community and Parental Involvement**
- ✓ 21st Century Workforce Development program
- ✓ Second language acquisition program
- ✓ Digital Learning Environment
- ✓ **Dropout Prevention Strategies**
- ✓ Educational programs for GT students
- ✓ Compliance with statutory reporting and policy requirements

HB 1842 – Interventions and Sanctions

District has 5 years to turn around a campus or risk losing it.



Assessments



What about us? Where's our HB 5?
Can we have fewer tests? ...hmm,
maybe next session, kid.

HB 743 – Test must be finished within 2 hours

HB 1164 – Alternate writing assessments maybe



CTE

HB 18 – Removes cap on dual credit

HB 1430 – Public Service endorsement includes mental health services



More Accountability/ Curriculum Bills

- HB 2812 - TEA may approve ADA for instructional programs provided **off-campus by an entity**
- SB 1867 - **Over-age special ed students** are excluded from dropout calculation
- HB 2660 - Enables **optional flexible day** programs to earn a full day of attendance 234 for 240 minutes of instruction rather than the 360 minutes of instruction currently required



Personnel

- **HB 2** – Provides \$768 million to keep **TRS-Care** solvent
- **HB 1783** – Employees have the right to report a crime witnessed at school to **any peace officer**; **adds school administrator** to one who is prohibited from coercing another into suppressing or failing to report info to law enforcement



Personnel

- **SB 1259** - Teacher responsible for instructing the student should implement a portion of the IEP; ARD Committee must prepare **written report** (decision, signatures, agreement, and bonus: **dissenting opinions Ok**)
- **HB 445** – Notice to public employees of the availability of paid leave for military service
- **HB 786** – Employees have right to express breast milk



Training

- **HB 2186** - Requires staff development training on **suicide prevention** as part of **new employee orientation for educators**. Existing educators must receive suicide prevention training according to a schedule adopted by TEA. Training may be satisfied through independent review online. Effective 2015-2016 school year.
- **SB 133** – Expands list of school employees eligible for **mental health first aid trainings** to include: secretary, bus driver, cafeteria worker, and school resource officers.
- **SB 382** - Continuing ed credit for instruction regarding **use of AED**



Health Bills

- HB 440 - PE curriculum must accommodate needs of special education students. Previous law addressed meeting needs of students with all physical ability levels
- HB 66 - **If ISD adopts local policy re: epi-pens**, schools must have them available to be administered by trained personnel at each campus and at every off-campus school-sanctioned event.
- SB 265 – Students must be allowed to use **sunscreen**



HB 3562 – Meal Card Grace Period

- Requires ISD to adopt a grace period policy regarding the use of the prepaid meal cards or accounts
- The policy **must allow a student** whose meal card is exhausted to continue, for a period determined by the district, **to purchase meals** by accumulating a negative balance on the student's card
- Districts **must notify a parent** of the lack of funds
- Districts may set a schedule for repayment on the account balance, but may **not** charge fees or interest on outstanding balances



SB 507 – Special Ed Cameras

- **Upon request** of a parent, staff member, or trustee, cameras
- Must be installed in self-contained special education instructional settings
- Video surveillance must include **audio** and must cover the setting from every angle (**no blind spots**, except restrooms/changing areas)
- School must retain video footage for at least **six months**
- **Effective 2016-2017 school year**



Student Issues

- HB 679 – Tex. Dept. of Housing/ Community Affairs will conduct a study on **homeless youth** by Dec. 1, 2016.
- **HB 1559** – ISD website must contain info regarding services for **homeless students**.
- SB 1494 – Requires TEA to assist the transition of **homeless students** in connection with: transferring records within 10 working days after enrollment, awarding credit, financial aid, etc.
- **HB 1804** – Campuses/ charter schools must notify child's caseworker of any disciplinary actions.
- HB 3748 – Colleges must designate a liaison for **former foster students**.

More Student Issues

- **SB 206** – Allows **fosters kids** to continue to attend their school even if foster home is outside district; free college tuition also.
- SB 314 – **Non-parent** can be appointed as Managing Conservator.
- HB 10 – Schools must now report the **trafficking** of a child that involves: forced labor or trafficking that causes the child to engage in sexual acts.
- HB 189 – Statute of limitations for injuries arising out of **sexual abuse** of a child has changed to **15 years**

HB 2398 – Changes to Truancy Law

- Truancy conviction can be **expunged**
- Peace officer's **cannot** take a student into custody for truancy
- ISD shall adopt truancy prevention plan and employ/designate a truancy prevention facilitator
- **ISD must offer additional counseling** and may not refer a student to truancy court if the truancy is the result of pregnancy, being in the state foster program, homelessness, or being the student's family's principal income earner.
- **Truancy must be prosecuted as a civil case**



Truancy Court may issue remedial actions like...

- Attend school without unexcused absences – **Brilliant !**
- Attend prep classes for GED
- Attend a non-profit to address abuse, rehab, **training in manners – why didn't I think of this?**
- Complete not more than 50 hours of community service
- Suspend or not issue driver's license – **what?!**
- Attend classes for student's at risk of dropping out of school designed for both parents and students –
- Refrain from identified injurious conduct – **of course!**
- Enjoin all contact with person contributing to the truant conduct – **seems easy**
- Pay any necessary costs



HB 910 – Changes to Open Carry

- Open carry signs clearly visible to public at **each entrance** to the property
- Concealed carry signs displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public
- Carrying (open or concealed gun) at **school events still prohibited**
- Carrying (open or concealed gun) at **meetings of governmental bodies still prohibited**
- BUT must still give effective notice of prohibition or not an offense



Governor's Record on Bills

- 1,202 - Signed by Governor
- 162 - Filed W/out Gov. Signature
- 42 - Vetoed by Governor (33 of 42 had at least one Democrat sponsor)



Wrap - Up

- **General Session Stats:**

- 6,476 bills filed this session

- 1,430 passed (22%)

- **\$1.5B new dollars** for public education

- **\$6.2B** still available in the state budget

- **\$11.1B** in Rainy Day Fund.

- **HB 1759**, major school finance bill, never had a chance



Sunset Advisory Commission Update



Sunset Advisory Commission

- TSBEP is under Sunset this year. Hooray !
- **Hmm...What is Sunset?**



How are agencies reviewed?

Three steps:

- Sunset Staff Review
- Sunset Commission Deliberation
- Legislative Action



How can I participate?

- **Mailing List**

- Anyone interested in receiving the Sunset review schedule, Commission meeting schedule and agendas, staff reports, and hearing materials?

- **Input During the Sunset Staff Review**

- You may contact Sunset directly or fill out the public input form.

- **Response to a Sunset Staff Report**

- You may respond in writing by filling out the public input form.

- **Testifying before the Sunset Commission**

- **Participating in the Legislative Session**

- Generally, Sunset recommendations are drafted into a bill



What changes can be made thru Sunset?

- Abolish or Continue the agency?
- If the Commission chooses to continue an agency, it can make recommendations to improve the agency's operations.
- **Example:** Transferring certain functions to another agency to eliminate duplication
- **Example:** Increase efficiency of operations



What changes **cannot** be made thru Sunset?

- **No** individual complaints, grievances, or cases, please.
- **Not** an avenue for appeals.
- **No** requests for additional funding or staff.
- Sunset gathers info re: types of complaints, grievances, and cases the agency has overall and sees whether a larger policy issue can be addressed through the Sunset review process



Now what?

- Sunset Commission needs a **chairman**
- Sunset staff analyst has **not** been assigned yet
- Besides TSBEP, there will be **30** other state agencies reviewed this year
- TSBEP will be reviewed in **May 2016**
- In the meantime....
- **TASP should draft one-pagers with a problem & a solution or recommendation**



Who sits on Sunset Advisory Commission?

- Sen. Nelson (R- **Flower Mound**)
- Sen. Birdwell (R- **Granbury**)
- Sen. Campbell (R- **New Braunfels**)
- Sen. Hinojosa (D - **McAllen**)
- Sen. Schwertner (R- **Georgetown**)
- Rep. Price (R- **Amarillo**)
- Rep. Burkett (R- **Sunnyvale**)
- Rep. Gonzales (R- **Round Rock**)
- Rep. Raymond (D - **Laredo**)
- Tom Luce, Public Member (**Dallas**)
- Dawn Buckingham, Public Member (**Austin**)



Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Update



ESEA Update

- Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists wrote letter
- 1 in 5 high schools do **not** have a counselor
- Mental Health plays a role in student outcomes
- **Senate version** approved provisions:
 - Authorizing Elem. Sec. School Counseling Program
 - Allowing school-wide **funding** for counseling
 - Allowing SEAs to use Title IV **funds** for counseling and mental health services
 - Allowing LEAs to use Title II **funds** to identify trauma
- **House version** adopts “school psychologist”
- What are the chances? Hmm....December/ January

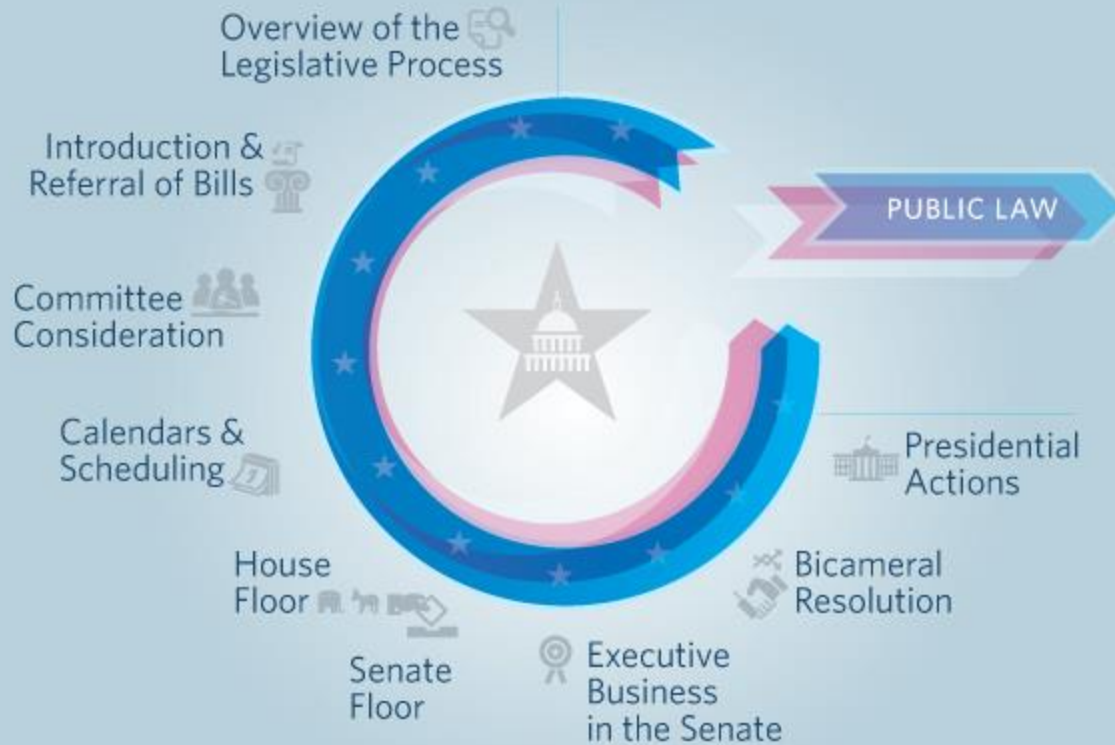


ESEA Update

- Senate version: **Every Child Achieves Act** (S 1177)
- House version: **Student Success Act** (HR 5)
- 1 in 5 high schools do **not** have a counselor
- Mental Health plays a role in student outcomes
- **Senate version** approved provisions:
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★ LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ★



ESEA Update

- Texas has 2 Senators & 36 Congressmen
- www.congress.gov
- www.govtrack.us
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_congressional_delegations_from_Texas



The End

