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## Spring ISD BOT Priorities | Texas Senate & House Bills of Interest | Next Steps

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### BOT Top Priorities

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All six of the BOT legislative priorities for 2020-21 are listed on the Spring ISD website: [springisd.org/Page/4729](http://springisd.org/Page/4729)

Four priorities were selected for BOT action during the present TX legislative session.

1. COVID-19 Pandemic  
Identify and address student needs before and after the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters
2. Diversity & Cultural Awareness  
Support diversity and cultural awareness initiatives that promote student equity
3. Public School Finance  
Maintain the funding implemented under HB3 to equitably share the cost of education
4. Charter Schools  
Provide better control of the expansion of charter schools and require that they publicly elect board members who are accountable to their school communities

### Spring ISD Input from Administrators

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Chief Financial Officer  
Ann Westbrook identified these bills to watch:

- HB 1525 State Funding
  - HB 3445 Fund Balance
  - HB 1391 Tax Rate Election (TRE)
  - HB 4465 Stimulus Funding
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## Let Your Voice Be Heard

! Contact the legislators in your Texas Senate & House districts. They listen to people who can vote for them. Go to the [Who Represents Me?](http://WhoRepresentsMe.com) website to identify your representatives and senators, and to get contact information for them.

! Contact the Texas legislators serving on education committees who represent part or all of your school district. The members of the Texas Senate education committee and their contact information is here: [senate.texas.gov/cmte.php?c=530](http://senate.texas.gov/cmte.php?c=530)

! Contact information for the members of the Texas House of Representatives Public Education Committee is here: [house.texas.gov/committees/committee/?committee=C400](http://house.texas.gov/committees/committee/?committee=C400)

! Each senator and representative lists the school districts in their legislative districts on their information pages.





## Increase Your Impact

### BUILD COLLECTIVE WILL

**“Nothing about us without us!”**

Candidates running for an office will say they support education, but may not support public education when asked specific questions or when they file bills.

Below are QR codes for organizations that advocate for students and public schools everyday, not just during elections.

Note: Tracy Fisher, Legislative Action Committee (LAC) wrote in a 4/9/21 email that “House members have received lots of campaign money from charter PACs and this session. has at least 35 charter bills.”


QR codes were provided by Dax Gonzalez (TASB).

## Some Bills (and Legislators) to Watch


Bill *	Legislator	Description
SB 2	Nelson	Provides full funding of HB 3 (86th Session)
SB 28	Bettencourt	Makes easier approval of open-enrollment charter schools, with no local oversight
HB 130	Rodriguez	Alleviates taxpayer funds being spent on toll road charges for public school vehicles, so there is more money for educating students
HB 332	Talarico	ISD's could use compensatory education allotment funds for SEL programs
HB 749	Middleton	Prohibits ISD's from paying an association to lobby for them, drastically limiting the ability of education leaders to advocate
HB 1391	Middleton	Makes a tax rate election hazardous for school support, may result in an even lower tax rate
HB 1525	Huberty	HB3 “clean up” bill to fix multiple issues
HB 3270	Dutton	Prohibits using local taxpayer funds to defend against state actions and decisions affecting a local education entity
HB 3445	Huberty	Requires use of excess funds to pay down debt, cut taxes, etc. instead of building a fund balance for disasters, such as hurricanes and pandemics
HB 3846	Krause	Prohibits Districts of Innovation from changing school year start and end dates
HB 4465	Dutton	Gives the TEA Commissioner control of federal stimulus funding intended for public schools by means of state control of TEA grant programs

\* Look up the status of bills at: [capitol.texas.gov/MnuHouse.aspx](http://capitol.texas.gov/MnuHouse.aspx)


Advocacy Resources



School Board Advocacy Network (SBAN)



TASB Legislative Advocacy Game



Texans for Strong Public Schools



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