

Public School Finance (HB 3646) - Conference Committee Report

- Directs \$1.9 billion of new money into public schools
- Increases aid to districts with low revenue targets
- Improves equity by increasing the basic allotment, guaranteed yield, and equalized wealth level, putting districts with low revenue targets back onto formula funding
- Reduces recapture payments and eliminates recapture for 26 districts
- Removes the mid-size adjustment exception for Chapter 41 districts
- Provides every district a minimum \$120 per Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) increase
- Provides an across-the-board educator pay raise of the greater of \$800/year or each educator's share of \$60/WADA for the district
- Includes speech-pathologists in the educator pay raise, as well as all educators at charter schools and at Windham schools (within TDCJ)
- Allows districts to include Teacher Retirement System and Social Security payments in funds allocated for pay increases
- Deletes the "TEEG" state-developed teacher incentive program, and modifies the "DATE" locally-developed incentive program grants to add emphasis on incentives for successful principals and teachers to move to challenging campuses
- For districts gaining more than \$350/WADA from formula changes, the gain is Phased in at \$350/year
- Repeals set-asides from the Compensatory Education allotment
- Establishes a permanent "roll-forward" for the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA) program
- Establishes a new program to guarantee bonds for new school construction
- Provides an additional \$50 career/tech allotment for students in sequences leading to certification, and provides for funding of certification exam fees
- Provide a special allotment for BRAC students if funds are available
- Provides funding for credit recovery classes for students

- Enhances the operation and functions of the Virtual School Network
- Establishes financial literacy as part of training in service centers and extends the financial literacy pilot program
- Exempts districts from paying tuition for dual credit for two years and requires comprehensive review over interim
- Modifies the school bus seat belt law to require districts to ensure new buses are equipped with seat belts only if state provides a grant to that district