

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 100

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 4:19 PM

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director
East Texans for Liberty
Gilmer, TX

East Texans for Liberty **STRONGLY** supports this legislation, which will protect children from sexualization in Texas schools.

Sylvia Campbell
self, retired
The Woodlands, TX

Dear Members of the Public Education Committee,
I am writing to support the use of average enrollment and an increase in the base allotment for funding our public schools. This will go a long way toward improving our schools that serve the children of Texas. Our teachers have been under a lot of pressure of late, and they deserve raises. The best way for Texas to be competitive in the world is through education of our people. Please support HB 100 (or HB 11) to improve our public schools.
Thank you,
Sylvia Campbell

Peggy Roscoe
Self
Conroe, TX

I support more conversation for public school educators.

Laura Weaver
retired/self
The Woodlands, TX

Please support HB 100! Our Texas public schools are suffering from a lack of funding and our teachers are leaving the profession in droves - in part, because their expenses have been rising, their supplies are dwindling, and their salaries have not kept up with rising costs. Our school districts and teachers deserve additional funding for both the basic allotment—the amount funded per student—and for teacher and staff salary increases.

Changing to a system of funding based on average enrollment is a good way to start fixing the problems. Raising the allotment and teacher salaries is important, too!

Thank you,
Laura Weaver

Amy Bruno

Upbring

Austin, TX

Texas Committee on Public Education

PO Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Dear Committee Members:

Trinity Charter Schools (TCS), which serves over 1,000 Texas youth living in the state's care, supports HB 100. Rep. Ken King's Texas House Bill 100 proposes an enrollment-based funding system under the Foundation School Program for specific allotments. This change will replace the current system of funding schools based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) with funding based on Average Enrollment (AE). This proposed reform is a much-needed change that will benefit both public charter schools and traditional ISDs in Texas.

The current ADA-based funding system has several areas for improvement. For instance, it disincentives schools to enroll new students mid-year, as they will receive funding in the next school year. Furthermore, schools in high-poverty areas, where students may face challenges that make regular attendance difficult, are often negatively impacted by the current funding system. By contrast, an enrollment-based funding system that relies on AE will provide more stable and predictable funding for public charter schools and traditional ISDs, allowing schools to plan and budget more effectively.

Additionally, an enrollment-based funding system will help improve the compensation of public charter schools and traditional ISDs educators. Many educators in the state are paid below the national average, making it difficult for schools to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. By increasing funding for schools, this bill will enable districts and charter schools to pay their teachers more competitive salaries, which will help attract better teachers and reduce turnover.

An enrollment-based funding system will provide a more equitable funding structure for charter schools. Currently, charter schools in Texas are funded at a lower rate than public schools, which has created an unfair disadvantage for these schools. Using AE to calculate funding, this bill will ensure public charter schools and traditional ISDs are funded based on the number of students enrolled rather than the number of students who attend regularly.

Rep. Ken King's Texas House Bill 100 is a vital step towards improving the compensation of public charter schools, traditional ISDs school educators, and Texas's finance system. Replacing the current ADA-based funding system with an enrollment-based funding system that relies on AE will provide more stable and predictable funding for Texas schools, improve teacher pay, and ultimately benefit students nationwide.

Thank you,

Dr. Andrew Benscoter

CEO, Trinity Charter Schools

Keely Reynolds

Superintendent, Trinity Charter Schools

Elizabeth Paulette
Retired
New Braunfels, TX

I would like to express my concern with the prospect of changing our current finance system from attendance based funding to enrollment based funding that is being proposed under the Foundation School Program. Making this change would enhance attendance issues that some districts/school currently have. Let's keep our current public school finance system that strongly promotes attendance. As a retired teacher, I saw first hand how attendance can be of the utmost concern for at risk students. I vividly remember a school I worked at and having EOY meetings with parents to notify them that a student had to be retained because they didn't attend school enough days. And may I add, that some of these students weren't at school because the parents wouldn't bring them, not because they were ill. Please, I urge you to strongly consider leaving the current school finance system based on "attendance."

Carolyn Mitchell
Texas Women for Justice
CONROE, TX

Our school districts and teachers deserve additional funding for both the basic allotment—the amount funded per student—and for teacher and staff salary increases. We are #49 in the nation for school funding. Our schools are not failing; our state is failing to fund our schools. Support more funding in the basic allotment and for teacher and staff salaries. I encourage you to support HB 11 and HB 100.

Lisa Gertsch
self
Houston, TX

I very much support this bill! Please vote yes!

Samantha Deramo
Self, elementary teacher
Houston, TX

Please MODIFY HB 100.

My name is Samantha Deramo, and I am a taxpayer in Houston and request a significant increase to the Basic Allotment. I appreciate the focus on an increase in the Basic Allotment and teacher compensation. However, more is needed to provide funding for districts to cover the salary increase for all positions and to account for inflation since 2019. With a \$32 billion surplus, there is no better time than now for the State to fund our public schools adequately.

L Quentin Dixon
Self/concerned citizen
Spring, TX

Please support HB 11. Our teachers and schools deserve better pay, and our students deserve the investment of adequate funds to provide for a high-quality education to fuel future economic innovation in Texas.

Erin Boatmun
Sunray Collegiate ISD
Sunray, TX

Please do not support the HB 2546 which will prohibit us from using the DOI to start school early. As educators, we prefer to have more time before STAAR testing as opposed to days late in May and June to address the state testing. Please allow us the freedom to continue to start school when our community wants to using the DOI.

Also, please do not place any additional unfunded mandates on school districts. Unfunded mandates are destroying small, rural districts.

Thank you for your consideration and serving the Great State of Texas.

Brittany Thomas
Self- public educator
Lewisville, TX

Representatives, public schools deserve a significant increase in an allotment funding. We have not had an increase since 2019 and inflation has made it very hard to keep up with rising costs. My school and district go out of their way to help all students achieve high standards, but lack of funding is causing class sizes of 31, vacant teacher spots, lack of funding for necessary resources to help with remediation and to close gaps. Please consider \$1000 funding increase at minimum.

Respectfully,
Brittany Thomas

Mallory Sibley
Texas Teachers
Corinth, TX

Raise allotment for each student

Ryan Baumgardner
Self
Carrollton, TX

As an educator in Texas I strongly encourage you to consider raising the per student funding to \$1000 that research says is needed to keep up with comparable states funding.

Regan Mangiameli
Self. Teacher
The Colony, TX

In order to keep up with inflation, student allotment should be raised by \$1,000 per student.

Jared Mangiameli
Self
The Colony, TX

Student allotment should be increased by at least \$1000.00 per student.

Delaina Bishop

SELF/Parent

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as currently written. I support the fund students by enrollment. But the funding per student needs to be much higher to match with inflation. I support giving our Educators, assistant educators, and staff a raise but this proposed raise is not nearly enough. If Texas wants to be the best and have intelligent citizens that we can be proud of and will stay in Texas to help Texas be even greater- then we need to FULLY FUND our Public schools. Educators should be one of top earning and respected careers here in Texas (and everywhere) these teachers put up with so much and still guide and educate our future generations, to me that is a irreplaceable contribution to our society.

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

The ideal solution for Texas kids is to find the teachers, administrators and school resources in their own public schools in the communities where their parents and families have roots and relationships with the school and fellow parents. If Texas wants to attract Tech business we have already been NOTIFIED our “undereducated” population is because of our underfunded schools.

Faye Holland

Self

Austin, TX

Enrollement based funding will help all students, teachers and schools. The students that are sick or are not at school still take school resources and teacher time. And rightly so. Please compensate all so that students can reach their fullest potential and are given a full chance to succeed by have an appropriate amount of money for each student no matter where they are.

Amy Woodell

PTA

Austin, TX

I support changing the way schools are paid to an enrollment based system, rather than an attendance based system I have always felt attendance based pressured parents to send their sick kids to shool. I support changing how schools are paid to enrollment based.

Brittany Trinite

Self- music therapist

Round rock, TX

I am for this bill.

Linda Evans, Ms

Self

Conroe, TX

Please vote YES HB 100

Use average enrollment for funding and also increase the basic allotment. We need salary increases of at least \$80/month for teachers and other professional staff and make similar changes to the salary schedule.

These hard working people deserve this increase.

Amanda Matasick
Self, Executive Assistant, Parent
Humble, TX

Our kids deserve fully funded schools!

Kate Greer
The Commit Partnership
Dallas, TX

We respectfully ask that Chairman King and the Committee consider an inclusion to HB 100 to modify funding for the Additional Days School Year Program by reducing the base calendar requirement from 180 to 175 days.

The Texas Legislature took bold action through the Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Program (House Bill 3, 86R) to encourage school systems to offer additional instruction time to their students. ADSY added a half-day formula funding for school systems that increased instructional days (beyond a minimum 180 days, up to 210 days) to any of their elementary schools (grades PK-5). Since its passage in 2019, numerous LEAs have expressed interest in offering additional days to their students through summer learning programs, intersessional calendars and full year redesigns. Early outcomes signal that ADSY is working and should be scaled to more students throughout the state.

The current 180 day base calendar requirement, however, remains a significant barrier to district participation, as the average school year calendar in Texas is currently 172 days (based on SY 2021-22). To meet the 180 day requirement, many LEAs must add more than an additional week of school before they are able to draw down ADSY funding. This has been untenable for many school systems that are unable to fund the necessary "bridge days" and their school boards have expressed concern about adding close to 40 additional school days in a single year.

To eliminate barriers to entry and ultimately ensure more Texas students receive evidence-based extended time to accelerate their learning, we recommend the Legislature adjust the minimum base ADSY calendar to 175 days. This modification will still raise the bar for instructional days (there are currently districts in the state with 155 day school years and this modification in HB 100 would remain 3 days higher than the state average), while allowing more districts to offer additional time; particularly on the campuses where it is most needed.

Additional signatories: The Texas Impact Network; Educate Texas; Good Reason Houston; Education Trust in Texas.

James Haygood
Self/Educator
New Braunfels, TX

Compensatory pay, enrollment-based funding, and the support of academic pathways are all vital for creating a state culture of learning and a generation of professionals who can compete in STEM fields.

Right now, schools are penalized for student absences when the schools themselves are often the only body attempting to get those students back into school. In all cases I've found, they are the party that works hardest to bring children to the learning and to bring the learning to children. The removal of the ADA concept will not stop educators from working to maintain a learning continuum. As a collective, they are intrinsically motivated to support children from all backgrounds and of all needs and abilities.

One untapped realm of potential is our students with the ability to accelerate, most of which can be found in our Gifted and Talented population. These students should be allowed to progress through the curriculum at a pace that matches their ability, and the Pathways presented in HB 100 will support their abilities and our outcomes. For too long, we've held students back who are capable of achieving far above and beyond the constraints that come about, largely, to a lack of funding for this special population. But opportunities like the Pathways will allow our brightest and fastest kids to be even more competitive as adults in this STEM landscape.

Becky Calahan
Philanthropy Advocates
Austin, TX

Philanthropy Advocates, a collaboration with Educate Texas, is a funders collaborative of over 55 Texas foundations. Members of Philanthropy Advocates are funders in communities across Texas – in rural, urban and suburban regions where we are deeply invested in our education systems. We believe Texas cannot maintain global competitiveness or advance economic mobility for Texas families if the Legislature does not double down on proven strategies to support a highly qualified teacher workforce and ensure our public schools have the necessary resources to provide high-quality educational experiences to our students.

As filed, HB 100 sends a strong signal that Texas philanthropy and the field have long known – teachers are the single-most important in-school factor for improving student academic performance. Building on the work of the Teacher Vacancy Task Force that Governor Abbott appointed, the Legislature has several key opportunities to address both the short- and longer-term staffing challenges our schools face and to recruit and retain the most effective educators possible.

Specifically, HB 100 addresses compensation of Texas educators through requiring a portion of the proposed increases to the basic allotment to go towards current teacher salaries and to adjustments to the current minimum salary schedule to distinguish between a teacher's certification route in addition to their years of service.

In Texas, a substantial number of newly hired teachers will exit the profession within their first 5 years of teaching. Research has shown that high attrition rates are tightly linked to new teachers feeling unprepared to enter the classroom as the teacher of record. We believe the proposed HB 100 changes to the minimum salary schedule is an important factor in recruiting and retaining highly effective educators.

Further, HB 100 addresses several elements of the school finance system with the aim at targeting resources to high-need and impactful educational strategies. We appreciate that the shifts made to enrollment-based funding in HB 100 include a focus on high-impact allotments. In particular, the Early Education Allotment and the Bilingual Education Allotment aim to increase early literacy and numeracy and provide dollars to support English Learners as well as dual language immersion as was desired in HB 3 (2019) and in the state emergent bilingual strategic plan.

Additionally, HB 100 incentivizes advanced math instruction through the allotment for advanced mathematics pathways. Prioritizing advanced math courses by increasing access to Algebra I in middle school would result in more opportunities for students to complete high school coursework that results in college credit while in high school or that increases access to more academic and workforce pathways beyond high school. Exposure to rigorous math instruction helps students thrive and excel in the higher skills needed for college and career.

Cindy Fountain, Ms
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Cleburne, TX

I support this bill. The attendance-based allotment program isn't the best way to finance our schools, so let's elect to not keep doing the same thing expecting it to change. Thanks for supporting this bill.

Lisa Songy
Self
Dallas, TX

Please fund our public schools properly. Increase the budget for teacher salaries. Increase the student allotment to keep up with inflation. Do not let our teachers and students down. We have surplus use it for good and increase the intellect of the future voters.

Tania Tasneem

self

Austin, TX

I am Tania Tasneem. Texan born, Pakistani raised, with a little twist of El Paso. I am a proud product of EPISD, UTeach alumna, 8th grade science teacher, and volleyball & track coach at Kealing Middle School in AISD (Go Hornets)! This is my 16th year serving as a classroom teacher and mentor for pre-service and novice teachers. When I gave testimony in September to the joint committee on Public Education and Higher Education, I asked you to focus on teacher retention by ensuring compensation and benefit models support teachers across experience and expertise levels. Sustain and expand practices like the Teacher Incentive Allotment and strategic staffing models that promote high quality residency, mentorship, and differentiated roles for veteran teachers.

It is disheartening to hear about the insult to this profession occurring as you work to improve the state's teacher workforce. The Texas Comptroller says schools need a \$900 increase per student just to keep up with inflation. The House budget proposes \$50 per student. Texas law says our classrooms are due \$1.6B transfer from the Permanent School Fund for books and technology but this budget proposes only \$1B. TEA says school districts are short \$2B for Special Education. The budget includes NO increase at all in SpEd funding. Texas teachers are already paid about \$8,000 a year below the national average. This budget proposes a \$455 a year increase in teacher pay.

In total, the TX House budget is short \$10.6B public schools would need just to maintain current funding.

It's time. It's time to do better for our 5.5 million kids in Texas public schools and invest in teachers, the humans closest to our students. Please make sure the house budget has a significant increase in per-student spending by increasing the basic allotment to account for inflation. At this time with a historic budget surplus, we can and should do better for our 5.5 million kids in Texas public schools and our teachers so that the mental, physical, and emotional loads we carry are valued.

Frances Romero

Parent of CY-FAIR ISD student

Houston, TX

Members:

Please consider amending the \$50 per student allotment increase to \$900 per student. This amount is what is economically necessary to sustain our public schools in Texas to catch up with inflation. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD has over 118,000 students with 92 campuses. We are the only "A-rated" large school district in Texas that has continuously demonstrated a high level of fiscal responsibility with high academic outcomes. In order to continue this path of student academic success, an adequate raise in the per student allotment calls for \$900.

As a tax payer and parent of a Cy-Fair ISD graduate and a current Cy-Fair ISD high school Senior, I wholeheartedly ask that members of this Committee PLEASE AMEND THE \$50 INCREASE TO \$900.

Thank you for your attention.

Frances Romero

Tax payer and parent in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

Carolyn Rospierski
self, HR Manager / Talent Manager
Cypress, TX, TX

Increase the Basic Allotment!!!

Texas is nearly last in the nation in public schools. this is unacceptable. Our children need and benefit from FULLY FUNDED public schools.

A \$50 increase in the Basic Allotment with a requirement that 50% of the increase be used for salaries for teachers, counselors, librarians, and nurses is insufficient to provide funding for districts to cover an increase in salaries for all positions and to account for inflation since 2019.

Increase the allotment to \$1000 to meet financial needs and get Texas closer to the average. We are woefully behind. Do not let that continue for another 2 years!

thanks
Carolyn Rospierski

Kathryn Kizer
Access Education RRISD
Austin, TX

Not nearly enough of a raise in the basic allotment. We need \$1000 per student. Also fund based on enrollment for all students.

Meenal McNary
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am in support of enrollment based funding

Reed Bilz
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Enrollment based funding instead of attendance based funding is the only equitable way to fund our public schools.

Jodi Duron, Associate Director
Texas Association of Midsize Schools (TAMS)
Elgin, TX

On behalf of the Texas Association of Midsize Schools, representing nearly 225 public school districts, we are currently "neutral" on this bill, particularly as it relates to the small/midsize formula adjustment and the basic allotment. We understand that the bill would implement several changes to the school finance system and a committee substitute is currently being finalized. We support the move to enrollment-based membership funding (from ADA), and we hope to see a greater increase to the basic allotment to address the growing needs and inflationary costs for all districts (as recommended in the substitute). We understand the revised version of the bill will also include the following:

- o Elements of HB 3781 by Jetton that begins the process of reforming the state's special education allotment. Note: we have not fully reviewed this portion, but we fully support added funding for Special Education to be in compliance with federal and state spending requirements without impact to local budgets and addressing the sped funding mechanism that aligns with most of the recommendations from the Sped Commission, absent the recommendation for sped vouchers.
- o Increased weights for the small and mid-sized district allotment (which we support).
- o Repealing of the proration cap on the fast growth allotment (which we support).
- o Increases to the minimum salary schedule that are more in line with HB 11 (which we support, with additional funding to manage the increase).
- o Increase in the number of pennies accessible without voter approval from five to six (which we support).

We thank the author for his thoughtful work and consideration on this very important funding bill!

Stephen Miller, CEO
Self
Lubbock, TX

Small, rural public-school districts provide the highest quality students for the enterprises with which I have been associated over the past couple of decades. Their teachers need to be paid adequately and siphoning off students with private schools will effectively kill these districts and the communities they are part of.

Laurie Solis
Self
Austin, TX

Thank you for promoting legislation that increases the basic allotment. I also am encouraged by the items in your legislation that include enrollment-based funding for certain allotments. Texas is only 1 of 7 states that do not use enrollment based funding for public education funding. I appreciate the increase but will also say this is not enough for our students and does not display investment in our communities or our future.

For my school district, Austin ISD, with 73,384 students, \$50 per student equates to \$3.7 million.

Here's what that looks like in our budget:

- Each 1% raise for teachers and librarians costs about \$2.81 million.
- Each \$1 raise to starting pay for hourly staff, plus adjustments for people earning higher hourly salaries, would cost about \$6.9 million.
- Reducing elementary class size by one student costs about \$2 million.
- A \$1000 stipend for Special Education and Bilingual Teachers costs about \$2 million.
- Adding one counselor to each campus would cost about \$9.7 million.

Please continue to support the education of our students by raising the basic allotment and work to make this change reflective of where we are today: cost of living adjustments, inflation, and a budget reflective of investment and not status quo. Thank you.

Christina Sellers, Mrs.

Self

Westworth Village, TX

I support raises for public educators including special education service providers like speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational and music therapists.

I also support enrollment based funding. According to a 2018 policy brief from the The Center for Education Research and Policy Studies at UTEP, attendance based funding does not have its desired outcome of increasing attendance, but it does widen inequities in our public schools. I oppose attendance based funding and support enrollment based funding.

Minda Caesar

Self (I also am a trustee of the Spring Branch Independent School District, but I am testifying as myself)

Houston, TX

While I appreciate the modest increases in allotments and the addition of an advanced mathematics allotment, this bill does not provide enough of an increase in the basic allotment to prevent severe and devastating budget cuts for my district, Spring Branch ISD. Our district is 57% ED, but we are a chapter 49 district. Our recapture payments have increased from \$64M to \$87M in one year. We have spent more than \$6M in just inflationary cost increases. The Texas Comptroller's Consumer Price Index affirms Texas public schools need a basic allotment increase of \$900/student just to keep up with inflationary costs. An additional \$100 would help us address future inflationary costs going forward so we can provide the educational excellence our students deserve. Additionally, requiring 50% of increases to go to teachers is a well-intentioned portion of the bill, but we have other employees that also need to benefit from increases. Additionally, we need the flexibility to hire or purchase the resources need to benefit our students. Spring Branch ISD has flourished over the past few years -- our academic results are ahead of our pre-pandemic results and we have moved from 16 schools on improvement plans to just one, which will exit this year. We have schools that have gone from F schools to A schools, but we were able to accomplish all of those goals thanks to ESSER dollars and careful, strategic and conservative investment in people and resources. Without at least \$1000 additional dollars on the basic allotment, we will face budget cuts of \$40-50M despite any efforts to curb recapture or lower property tax. 87% of our budget is people. Please help and increase the basic allotment by \$1000. It is money that our taxpayers already paid expecting it to go to education. Please help ensure that it does by investing in a basic allotment increase. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charlene Shafer

Self, Retired Teacher

Cypress, TX

HB 100 needs to be modified. It includes a \$50 increase in the Basic Allotment with 50% required to be used for salaries for teachers, counselors, librarians & nurses. I appreciate the focus on an increase in the Basic Allotment & teacher compensation, however, this amount is insufficient even to cover inflation since 2019. It would take an increase of \$900 in the Basic Allotment to even cover inflation. \$50 with 50% going for raises would amount to about a 0.1% raise for only the mentioned employees. Everyone in Public Education needs a raise. With a \$32 billion surplus, there is no better time than the present to fund public schools adequately.

Doretha Allen

Texas National Board Coalition for Teaching

DeSoto, TX

As a member of the Texas National Board Coalition for Teaching a 501(c) (3), and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards state network, I support the designation change to “master.” National Board Certified Teachers are the highest ranking teachers in the nation that are considered to have met the “gold standard” of teaching, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, founded in 1987. Currently, there are only 1,203 NBCTs in Texas and unfortunately, our state is ranked in 49th place, therefore, we agree that this legislation will encourage the future growth of NBCTs in Texas.

Research from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has shown that students with an NBCT in their classroom increase their learning 2-3 months further than non-NBCTs. For students of high needs and rural areas of Texas, this will be an opportunity to positively impact their educational experience as well as their life trajectory.

I ask that you continue to support SB9 and pass this bill. I want to be a resource about the National Board process because I am a National Board Certified Teacher that achieved during my tenure at Charles Rice Learning Center in South Dallas, which has many societal challenges including homelessness, poverty, high recidivism, and many of my students would be first generation college. I came to the National Board process with 2 advanced degrees and being teacher of the year twice at my campus. The process of National Board Certification makes teachers better because of the constant use and analysis of data, knowledge of their students, and being masters of their content. Students need the best teachers possible.

I implore you to support NBCTs being at the masters level on the teacher incentive allotment. Better teachers make society better.

Thank you.

Cynthia Dwyer

The Tarrant Together Project

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing today to urge you to pass HB 100 out of committee. It is imperative that the public school funding is based on school enrollment not school attendance. School districts will benefit greatly from his change as they can create school year budgets with great accuracy.

Any financial increase for public education is welcome but this bill does NOT go far enough to fund Texas public schools. If inflation is taken into account school districts should be receiving \$7,325 per student per school year. Funding has been stuck at \$6,160 per student since 2019! 5 years!

We CAN AND MUST do better to support our children.

Thank you.