

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on S/C on Academic & Career-Oriented Education  
For HB 2196

Compiled on: Thursday, March 27, 2025 9:19 AM

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Hearing Date: March 27, 2025 8:00 AM

Anthony Livecchi, Dr.

Self

Conroe, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of House Bill 2196, a critical piece of legislation aimed at expanding virtual school options for students in our state. This bill will create an innovative, flexible, and equitable framework for virtual schooling that will empower students and families by offering more educational choices while also supporting local educational agencies (LEAs) in adapting to the evolving needs of their communities.

I previously served as my district's Virtual School principal and I believe HB2196 is a vital step forward for several key reasons:

1. **Increased Educational Choice:** This bill will provide families with greater autonomy over their child's education by offering flexible learning options that meet their needs, whether that is full-time virtual learning, hybrid models, or ad-hoc virtual courses. The ability to select the best educational environment for each student will result in improved outcomes for all learners.
2. **Innovation and Flexibility for Local Education Agencies (LEAs):** HB2196 encourages local districts and charter schools to innovate and adapt to the unique needs of their students. By fostering virtual and hybrid learning opportunities, LEAs will be able to reach students in new ways, creating diverse educational pathways that align with 21st-century learning practices.
3. **Community Input and Engagement:** This bill ensures that local communities and parents have a voice in shaping the virtual schooling options available in their area. By establishing a process for ongoing feedback and input, HB2196 guarantees that virtual schooling will be responsive to the needs of students, families, and educators.
4. **Opportunities for All Students:** The flexibility provided by HB2196 will particularly benefit students who may face challenges in traditional school settings, such as those with health conditions, mobility challenges, or unique learning needs. Additionally, the bill allows for expanded access to specialized coursework that may not be available in brick-and-mortar schools, helping to better serve gifted students or those seeking a particular academic focus.

HB2196 represents a balanced approach that will support the unique needs of students and communities while promoting educational excellence. By passing this bill, we can ensure that all students, regardless of their personal circumstances, have access to high-quality education in a format that works best for them.

I urge you to support the passage of HB2196 and encourage your colleagues to do the same. This legislation will provide our students with the tools they need to succeed in an ever-changing world, and it will strengthen our public education system as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I look forward to your support of HB2196.

Nicole May

self

The Woodlands, TX

Chair Ashby and Members of the Committee.

My name is Nicole May, and I serve as a School Board Trustee representing families in Conroe ISD, including many with vulnerable students who have found success in virtual education. I am here today in strong support of HB 2196, which ensures continued access to high-quality virtual schooling options for Texas students.

In my role as a trustee, I work closely with families whose children face unique challenges—whether due to medical conditions, disabilities, anxiety, bullying, or learning differences. For these students, the traditional classroom setting is not always a viable option. However, in a structured, well-supported virtual learning environment, many of these students are not just surviving but thriving.

I have heard from parents whose children struggled in brick-and-mortar schools but are now excelling academically, building confidence, and receiving the individualized support they need in a virtual setting. These students deserve the same access to a high-quality public education as their peers, and virtual schools provide them with stability, flexibility, and a tailored learning experience that meets their needs.

HB 2196 is not about replacing traditional schools—it is about ensuring choice and equity in public education. For some students, virtual learning is not just a preference; it is a lifeline. By supporting this bill, we affirm our commitment to serving all Texas students, including those for whom virtual education is the best path to success.

I urge you to support HB 2196 and stand with the families who rely on these programs. Thank you for your time and for your dedication to the future of Texas education.