



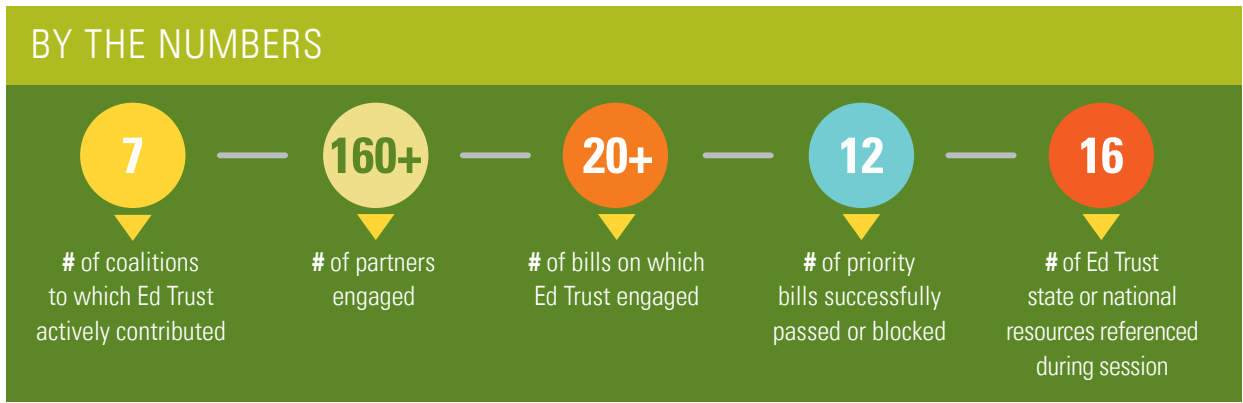
# 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION

# WRAP-UP

JULY 2021

## » A Session Like No Other

The 2021 regular Texas legislative session marked The Education Trust’s first time “on the ground” during the state’s biennial lawmaking process. Serving as a reliable bridge-builder and truth teller, we engaged more than 160 diverse partner organizations and provided research from over a dozen state and national reports. We testified and informed lawmakers on more than 20 high-impact bills, helping to successfully pass eight bills and block four.



## » Victories Amid the Chaos

Together with Texans from all backgrounds, we successfully advocated for priorities that benefit all students, particularly students of color and students from low-income backgrounds:



Money matters, and together with partners we pressed lawmakers to pass a budget that fully funds House Bill 3 (2019) and sends schools more than \$16 billion in federal funds. Ed Trust advocated to ensure these supplemental funds are equitably distributed and protect underserved students. We helped lawmakers, staffers, advocacy partners, and the media understand [the implications of these funds](#) and [where exactly they would go](#).



The pandemic disrupted learning, especially for Black and Latino students and students from low-income backgrounds. Ed Trust promoted evidence-based [strategies like high-quality tutoring](#), which will be supported through the state’s use of \$2 billion in federal funds to help students and teachers bounce back over the next several years.



## CLARIFYING ACCOUNTABILITY

The state's A-F school rating system was understandably put on hold due to the pandemic. Ed Trust, alongside our civil rights partners, made sure schools weren't unnecessarily punished but remained responsible for closing widening opportunity gaps for Black, Latino, and low-income students.



## IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION:

Ed Trust networked advocates across multiple coalitions to push lawmakers to improve early education, cap pre-K class sizes, and establish a statewide bilingual education plan. We also worked to ensure students enrolled in dual credit courses receive advising support and that students currently enrolled in higher education can access emergency aid and other support to persist and complete.

## » Defending Students' Right to Learn and Racial Equity

Ed Trust helped inform and activate thousands of Texans and [nearly 100 student, teacher, faith, business and professional groups against](#) a new law that seeks to censor classrooms, deny students the right to learn our nation's full history, and interfere with the work of creating inclusive schools that provide equal opportunity to all.

Ed Trust will continue to play an important role supporting an expansive and inclusive movement to defend education equity and advance real solutions to long-standing, systemic disparities that persist for Black and Latino students and teachers in Texas.

**“** *Once I connected with Ed Trust, they kind of became like a lifeline and started connecting us with other people.*” — Morena Hockley, parent advocate, San Antonio

**“** *The Ed Trust in Texas team certainly took risks and challenged the status quo of Texas legislative politics and processes by forging relationships with any office that was willing to listen.*” — Patrick Steck, Director of Policy, Deans for Impact



**“** *Education Trust Texas has been incredibly nimble and flexible in a very surreal and unpredictable time.*” — Andrew Hairston, Director of Education Justice Project, Texas Appleseed

## » Equity-Driven • Data-Centered • Student-Focused