



# We are EdTrust

## **FIERCE ADVOCATES**

for education equity and justice for students  
of color and students from low-income families

Equity-Driven • Data-Centered • Student-Focused



The Education Trust

# TX State Time



**Objective:** Provide the latest real-time information on key bills as we enter the homestretch of the 87th Texas Legislative session

## **Agenda:**

- Where we are in the session
- Status of the state budget and federal funds
- Key bills to address unfinished learning w/ Teach Plus and Deans for Impact

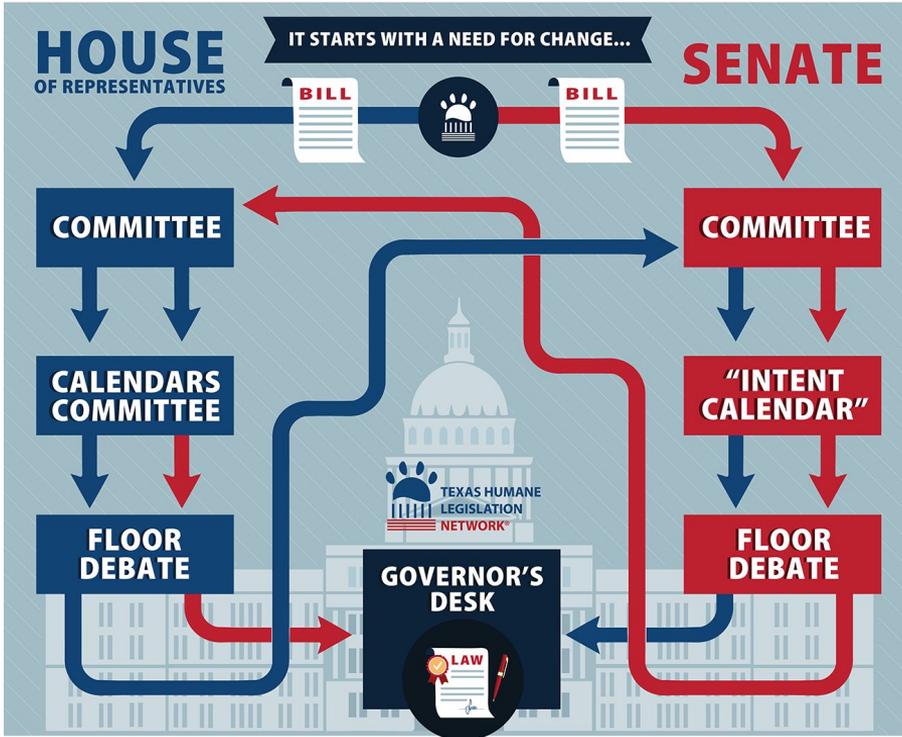
# We are headed into the 4th quarter



## SEC. 7.87. REGULAR SESSION PERPETUAL CALENDAR

<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Legislature Convenes (Second Tuesday of January)</b>	<b>60-Day Bill Filing Deadline</b>	<b>Adjournment Sine Die (140th Day or 20 Weeks)</b>	<b>Post-Session 20-Day Deadline for Governor to Sign or Veto</b>	<b>Effective Date (91st Day After Adjournment)</b>
Monday January 1	Tuesday January 9	Friday March 9	Monday May 28	Sunday June 17	Monday August 27
Tuesday January 1	Tuesday January 8	Friday March 8	Monday May 27	Sunday June 16	Monday August 26
Wednesday January 1	Tuesday January 14	Friday March 14	Monday June 2	Sunday June 22	Monday September 1
Thursday January 1	Tuesday January 13	Friday March 13	Monday June 1	Sunday June 21	Monday August 31
Friday January 1	Tuesday January 12	Friday March 12	Monday May 31	Sunday June 20	Monday August 30
Saturday January 1	Tuesday January 11	Friday March 11	Monday May 30	Sunday June 19	Monday August 29
Sunday January 1	Tuesday January 10	Friday March 10	Monday May 29	Sunday June 18	Monday August 28

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN TEXAS

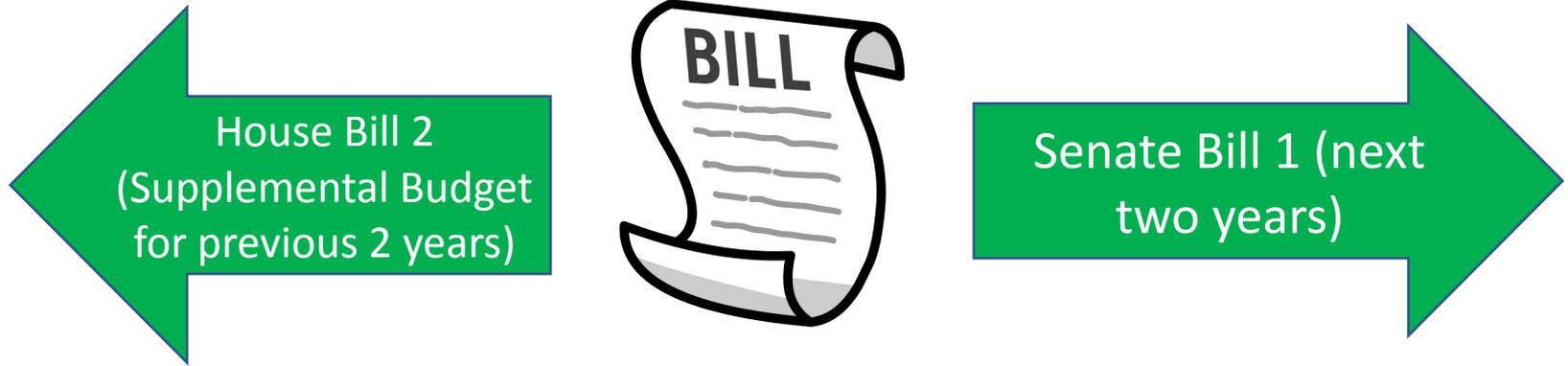


[THLN.ORG/LEGISLATION\\_BASICS](http://thln.org/legislation_basics)



If a bill has not been heard in Committee at this point, it's on life support. However, the language from dead bills can always come back to life in other pieces of legislation.

The Texas legislature must pass a balanced budget, based on how much revenue is available to spend.



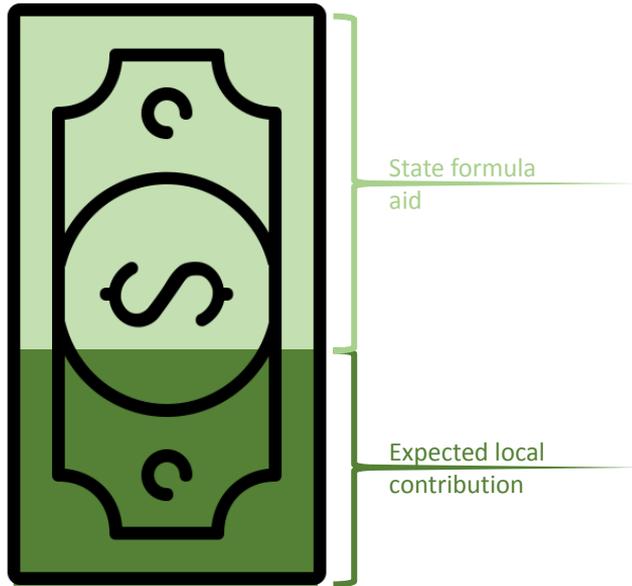
State revenue is not down as much as many feared, especially with help from the federal government.



**Federal relief funds**  
(\$17.9 billion from  
ESSER II and III)

State revenue is down, but only slightly – less than \$1 billion for the previous two years and less than \$500 million for the next two years. The total state budget is ~\$112 billion.

# What We Know: Formula cuts unlikely

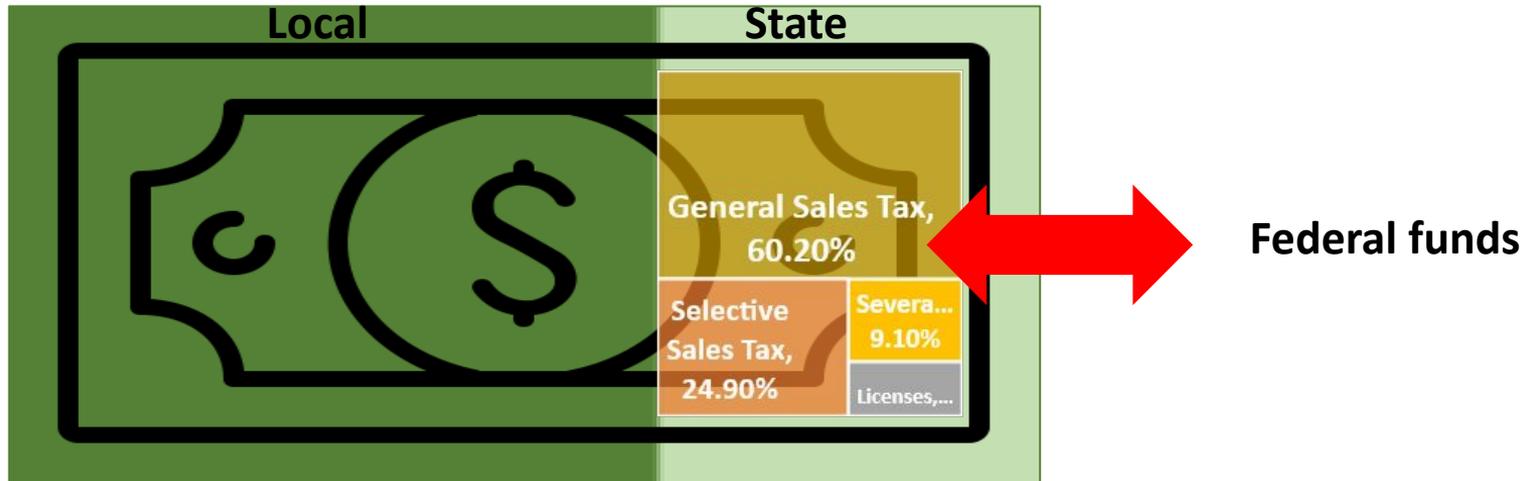


Both the Texas House and Senate budget proposals fully fund the formula.

In other words, no major changes are expected to the formula or the state's ability to pay its share for the next two years ... for now.

# What We Don't Know: Timing and use of federal funds

Neither Senate Bill 1 nor House Bill 2 includes the \$17.9B from ESSER II and III. The state can use federal funds to replace (or "supplant") state formula funds so it can direct that revenue outside of formula or outside of education entirely.

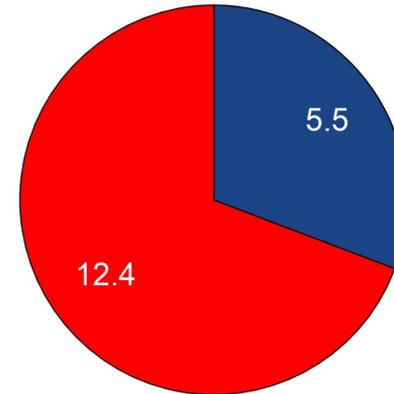


# What We Don't Know: Maintenance of Effort

To receive ESSER II and III funds, states must spend **at least the same share of total state spending on PK-12 education and higher education combined** over the next two years as they did, on average in 2017 - 2019.

**Texas may need to invest an additional \$1.2B in higher education to meet this requirement.**

ESSER Funds (in billion dollars)



The Governor submitted a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education in late February and has not received a response.

# Outside of the budget, key bills to address unfinished learning:



- HB 5 / SB 5: Broadband expansion
- HB 4117: High-quality tutoring
- HB 4545: Strong Foundations Grant, accelerated learning committees, and outcomes bonuses
- HB 4465: Grants for extended instructional time, broadband, curriculum and instruction, air and water quality, and accelerated learning

# Unpacking Broadband and Equity

**Sydney Grice**

5th Grade ELA Ripley  
House Community  
School

Teach Plus Policy Fellow  
Houston, TX



# Legislative Summary and Ongoing Policy

**HOUSE BILL 5:  
BROADBAND FOR TEXANS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for reliable access to internet and exposed the breadth of ways in which connectivity impacts daily life. House Bill 5 aims to make measurable progress towards closing the digital gap for Texans.



**THE PROBLEM:** The digital divide continues to widen and leads to social and economic gaps between those who have access to internet and those who do not. Now is the time for the state to step in and help close the gap for the many Texans that still lack access or face barriers to the subscription of broadband.

**316,717**  
HOUSEHOLDS  
OR  
**900,000**  
TEXANS  
are unserved by  
broadband according  
to Connected Nation  
Texas



**THE SOLUTION: HOUSE BILL 5**

- Creates the Broadband Development Office within the Office of the Comptroller, which will:
  - **Prepare the State Broadband Plan** | Texas is currently one of only six states without a state plan. This puts Texas at a disadvantage when applying for federal dollars.
  - **Participate in proceedings at the Federal Communications Commission** | Federal broadband maps have traditionally been inaccurate. Texas can complement the FCC's new mapping initiative by actively working to improve its accuracy.
- **Produce the Broadband Development Map** | With granular, address level data the state can better identify which areas of Texas need the most help.
- **Administer the Broadband Development Program** | This program will make certain that any private, federal, or state funding is ready to be delivered to applicants so service can be expanded as soon as possible.

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:**

AARP | AT&T | Digital Texas Coalition | e-Health Alliance | Greater Houston Partnership | North Texas Commission | RGV Partnership | Texas 2036 | Texas Association of Counties | Texas Electric Cooperatives | Texas Farm Bureau | Texas Telephone Association | & Many More!

## Current Legislation:

- + House Bill 5
- + Senate Bill 5

## Next Steps:

- + Committee Approval
- + Government Assistance Coordination
- + Supporting Digital Literacy

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# Legislation to support effective teaching and students

- > **HB 4117 (TALARICO) / SB 2023 (POWELL)** establish the Texas Tutor Corps grant program
  - Leverage federal stimulus dollars and existing state educational programs (e.g. compensatory education)
  - Align to the PATHS to Tutor Act (S.457)
  - Leadership interest in both chambers
  - Broad coalition of supporting state organizations
- > **HB 4545 AND 4465 (DUTTON) / SB 2094 (TAYLOR)** relate to federal education funding
  - Possible vehicles for mobilizing aspiring teachers (and others) as tutors

# Design parameters

## High-quality tutoring:

- One-on-one or in a small group
- Multiple sessions each week
- Content- and grade-specific tutors are matched with students
- Aligned to the local standards & curriculum
- Includes ongoing support to tutors

## Funding provides:

- Matching, training, placing tutors with schools
- Stipends for tutors and mentors
- Instructional and connectivity resources
- Transportation, meals and snacks, and facilities

## Other considerations:

- Prioritize recruitment of teacher-candidates
- Serve high-need schools
- Flexible delivery modalities (e.g. in-person, virtual)
- Closely aligned to school calendar
- Includes SEL, CLR, and trauma-informed practices





# HB 4465 (Dutton)

- Establishes COVID recovery grants for extended learning, broadband, curriculum and instruction innovations, air and water facility improvements, and accelerated learning
- Empowers the Commissioner to determine the terms of grants and administer them
- Empowers the Commissioner to resolve federal maintenance of effort and maintenance of equity issues



# HB 4545 (Dutton)

- Establishes an accelerated learning committee for students who fail STAAR in grades 3, 5 and 8 and requires at least 30 hours of supplemental instruction
- Establishes the Strong Foundations Grant Program for elementary schools to implement high-quality instructional materials, curricula and aligned professional supports
- Adds an outcomes bonus for accelerating and sustaining student proficiency (2X for “educationally disadvantaged”)

# TX State Time: Day 2 Preview



**Tomorrow we'll review key bills to address:**

- Safe and supportive school climate w/ Texas Appleseed and Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
- College readiness and access w/ The Commit Partnership and Texas 2036