

Strong Academic Foundations

TX2036

How the 2025 Texas Legislature invested in the teacher workforce and education quality in foundational grades

Texas students deserve a high-quality education that equips them with the academic skills needed to be successful



Over half of all first-time teachers in Texas last year had no formal training or teaching certification. These uncertified teachers on average have a negative impact on student learning, equivalent to multiple months of lost learning when compared to the traditionally certified teacher.



Only **46% of Texas 3rd graders are reading on grade level** while just **40% are doing math on grade level**.



Students that fall behind early struggle to catch up. For students who did not meet grade-level reading expectations in 3rd grade in 2019, **only 1 in 5 caught up** to perform at grade level in 3 years by 6th grade, and with respect to math **roughly 1 in 10 caught up** over the same time period.

Texas is building a strong framework for student success by investing in great teachers, high-quality instruction and better learning outcomes.

The 2025 Texas Legislature has invested in high-quality education in foundational grades by passing several key measures.

Strengthening Early Literacy and Numeracy

HB 2 by Rep. Buckley & Sen. Creighton

Enhances early literacy and numeracy by providing teachers with tools to identify students struggling earlier, investing in interventions and teacher training, and the scaling of effective programs like the Additional Day School Year program

Prioritizing Funds for High Quality Instructional Materials

HB 100 by Rep. Leo-Wilson & Sen. Middleton

Ensures that districts are not using public funds on low quality curriculum with poor student outcomes and a lack of alignment to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Paying Teachers More. For Some, Much More.

HB 2 (cont.)

Provides across-the-board pay raises for experienced teachers and expands the Teacher Incentive Allotment to ensure we keep our most effective teachers in the classroom and give them a path to a six-figure salary.

Hiring SBOE Staff

HB 3627 by Rep. Tepper & Sen. Sparks

Allows the State Board of Education to hire staff to ensure they are able to implement the curricular reforms from previous sessions and effectively review and approve high-quality curriculum.

Incentivizing Better Teacher Training

HB 2 (cont.)

Incentivizes teachers to use high-quality teacher preparation pathways prior to entering the classroom. This bill also provides investments in the mentorship program allotment, grow-your-own programs, teacher residency programs, and one-time incentives to help districts get their existing teachers certified.

Easing Out-of-State Teacher Hiring and Certification

HB 1178 by Rep. Cunningham & Sen. Campbell

Makes it easier for certified teachers from other states to start teaching in Texas by giving them a temporary one-year certificate while their full certification is processed.

For questions,
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