CLEAR CREEK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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81st Legislature Bills of Interest as of 4/15/09

Following is a legislative update compiled by the Clear Creek Independent School District's Office of Public Information. These are just a handful of bills CCISD is tracking. Please contact us at 281-284-0020 if you have any questions or you can track your own bills of interest by visiting www.house.state.tx.gov and click on Research Bills.

School Finance

House Bill 1555 / Senate Bill 982

If approved, this bill would effectively return Texas school to a formula system that varies year to year dependent on district's needs, property values, and state aid. Currently, the per-student funding school districts receive is frozen at 2006 property value levels.

News of Interest regarding HB 1555/SB 2392

- Each school district would receive a minimum of $75 per student increase over last year. **Clear Creek ISD's current per-student funding is $5,365**. School districts that receive less than $5,100 per student would likely see the largest per-student gain. For the 2010-2011 school year, districts would receive a minimum of $175 per student increase.
- School districts who receive more than a $200 per-student increase from the State would need to reduce its local maintenance and operations tax rate to ensure a $200 per student increase cap.
- Each school district would be allowed $.06 without voter authorization and each penny would be worth more,(aka golden penny or enrichment penny).
- School districts will have the ability to ask voters to approve a "not-to-exceed" amount tax rate where the school board can access the pennies as needed.

Bill Status: Left Pending in Public Education Committee

House Bill 3646

Currently, this bill has many blanks written in the text so it is difficult to assess what impact or actual dollars this bill would carry with it.

News of Interest regarding HB 3646

- Unspecified salary increase for teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and speech pathologists.
- Provides for new special education grant program to offset the local costs of special education services.
- Moves to current year property values in determination of state aid.
- Each school district would be allowed $.06 without voter authorization and each penny would be worth more,(aka golden penny or enrichment penny).
- The bill also requires the State to pay for 66.7% of the cost of education versus the current model where the State's share decreases as the local property values increase.

Bill Status: Left Pending in Public Education Committee

Senate Bill 2392

Similar to HB 3646, this bill also has many blanks, especially when it comes to what the State aid would come to local school districts.

News of Interest regarding Senate Bill 2392

- Gives local school districts access to $.06 pennies on the local tax rate without a rollback election
- Increases the values of each of those pennies to what those pennies would be worth in Austin ISD (aka, golden pennies, enrichment pennies)
- Includes Intermediate students in the high school allotment fund. Currently, the high school allotment fund is $275 per student in grades 9-12, this bill would allow school districts to expand college readiness programs to the intermediate schools.

Bill Status: Left Pending in Public Education Committee

House Bill 130/ Senate Bill 21- Funding for full-day pre-kindergarten programs for qualifying students. Currently, school districts must apply for a State grant or utilize federal funds (Title 1) to pay for full-day pre-k programs. This would increase CCISD's ability to provide full-day pre-kindergarten district-wide.

Bill Status: Left Pending in Public Education Committee

Accountability

House Bill 3/ Senate Bill 3

These two identical bills will have a dramatic impact on how school districts are assessed by the Texas Education Agency and is in line with what educators and board of trustees have been seeking when it comes to accountability reform. The bills are lengthy (198

pages) but essentially move the assessment of students, schools, and school districts to a three-year rolling average and to include multiple assessments versus the one-shot TAKS test such as report cards and yearly progress. The bill also provides multiple tracks toward graduation. The Bill is based on the findings of an Interim committee. You can read more on this bill on www.ccisd.net and the full house report titled "Education, Priority One"

Bill Status: Left Pending in Committee and Working Substitute Bill

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General Bills of Interest

House Bill 2681- Allows school districts to start school on the second Monday in August
House Bill 642- Eliminates unfunded mandates
House Bill 81- Prohibits use of public funds for non-English speaking materials
House Bill 1323- Requires school districts to report and publicly release incidents of bullying.
House Bill 975- Requires at least one drug test for each prospective professional employee and random drug testing on 10% of staff.