

JOANNE-SHOFFNER

Texas State Representative, HD 11

UPDATES FROM JOANNE SHOFFNER!

Greetings to the family of House District 11 from the Texas State Capitol. The Texas Legislature has been hard at work in Austin on legislation to improve the lives of the people of the State of Texas and East Texas. I am pleased to share with you this update on my time here as your State Representative in the Texas House of Representatives.

HOUSE BILL 3219

I was thrilled to introduce House Bill 3219, which would allow Texas pharmacists to dispense ivermectin without a prescription.

This proposal was heard by the House Public Health Committee on Monday, April 21st. I am proud to support medical freedom and expand access for Texans.

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HOUSE BILL 4429

This week, I had the honor of attending the layout of House Bill 4429, which I am also proud to joint-author. This bill designates a portion of U.S. Highway 281 in Blanco and Burnet Counties as the Muckleroy Memorial Highway—an enduring tribute to a legacy of service, commitment, and community impact.

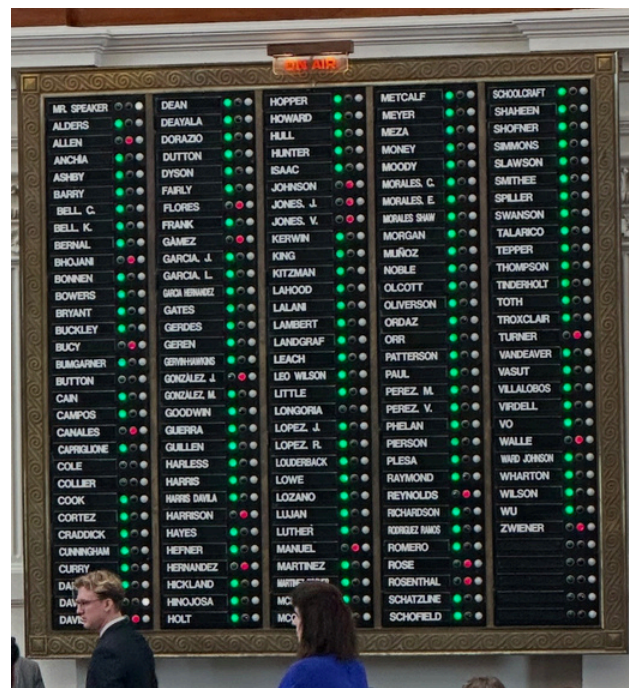
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HOUSE BILL 6

On April 16th, the Texas House passed HB 6 – the Teacher’s Bill of Rights!

This legislation restores classroom authority to our educators, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to maintain order, safeguard student safety, and uphold academic integrity. Proud to stand with our Texas teachers!



HOUSE BILL 2 PASSES!



The Texas House has officially passed HB 2 — a major step forward for public education in our state!

- ✓ Largest school funding and teacher pay raise bill in Texas history
- ✓ Strengthens public schools
- ✓ Supports our teachers
- ✓ Gives every student a chance to succeed

After more than 12 hours of debate, this historic legislation passed — and I was proud to support it. This is a victory for students, teachers, and communities across Texas. Let's keep putting Texas students and educators first!

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THE TEXAS HOUSE PLAN FOR SCHOOL FINANCE

HOUSE BILL 2

The Largest Increase to Public Education Funding in State History

**OVER \$3
BILLION**

TO INCREASE PER-
STUDENT SPENDING
& TEACHER PAY

**ALMOST
\$1 BILLION**

IN BOOSTED
FUNDING FOR
RURAL & MID-SIZE
SCHOOLS

**\$1.5
BILLION**

IN NEW SPECIAL
ED FUNDING

**\$1.5
BILLION**

IN ADDL. TARGETED
FUNDING FOR PRE-K,
BILINGUAL ED,
REDUCING
ACHIEVEMENTS GAPS
& MORE

**\$750
MILLION**

IN EXTRA
INCENTIVE PAY FOR
HIGH-PERFORMING
TEACHERS

HB 2, THE OMNIBUS SCHOOL FINANCE BILL:

- Puts into motion a **\$7.7 billion increase in public education funding**—the largest component of the House's \$9 billion package of priority education proposals.
- Increases the Basic Allotment (BA), the state's share of per-student funding, to **\$6,555—a \$395 increase**.
- Ties the BA to the growth of property values, yielding **automatic increases in public education funding & teacher pay** in the state budget, which will reduce recapture & pressure to raise local taxes.
- Requires 40% of the BA to go toward **teacher pay raises**, prioritizing increases first for teachers with 10+ years', then 5+ years' experience.
- Contains **financial safety nets** guaranteeing schools receive 95% of their funding from the prior year if they experience a decline in enrollment, and every district receives a minimum \$200 BA increase, so no one loses under HB 2's proposed finance formulas.
- Provides **additional, targeted funding for special education**, including transportation, learning resources, SPED support staff, & IEP evaluations.
- Increases **financial support for Pre-K** education, encouraging more providers to offer programs.
- Provides a **50% funding increase** for schools that **extend instruction** through the Additional Days School Year program.
- Includes funding to expand teacher certifications, ensuring better-prepared teachers in the classroom & reducing administrative burdens associated with the oversight of uncertified teachers.

**HB
2**

**HISTORIC NEW FUNDING. HIGHER TEACHER SALARIES.
STRONGER CLASSROOMS.**

**THAT'S THE TEXAS HOUSE'S
SCHOOL FINANCE PLAN.**

Rockwall County reports measles

Officials suspect case may be first in North Texas tied to outbreak

By EMILY BRINDLEY
Staff Writer
emilybrindley@dallasnews.com

Local health officials have reported a measles case in Rockwall County, possibly connected to the West Texas outbreak.

The county's health au-

thority on Tuesday issued a public health alert about the confirmed case. The illness was confirmed in an adult who recently traveled to West Texas, according to the health alert. The case was reported last week, the alert said, and the person has recovered and is no longer contagious.

The individual remained at home for most of the conta-

See MEASLES Page 6A

IN THE KNOW Highly contagious

The measles virus is among the most contagious illnesses in the world, and it can spread rapidly among unvaccinated people.

SPREAD: The virus can live in the air and on surfaces for hours after an infected person has left the room, meaning that people can catch the illness without ever being in the same room as someone who is infected.

PREVENTION: The two-dose measles-mumps-rubella vaccine is 97% effective at preventing the illness. It is recommended for nearly everyone, beginning at about 12 months of age. The vaccine is not recommended for those pregnant or immunocompromised.

Shooting suspect let in, affidavit s

District authorities say school's safety protocol was followed

By MATT KYLE
and CHASE ROGERS
Staff Writers

The suspect in a shooting at Wilmer-Hutchins High School was able to bring a gun into the school Tuesday after he was let in by another stu-

Education Lab

dent through an "unsecured door," according to an arrest warrant affidavit obtained by *The Dallas Morning News*.

At least four students were taken to hospitals with injuries while scores of others were sent scrambling just after 1 p.m. Tuesday. Active calls for Dallas police show at least 60 units responded to

the scene.

Tracy DeWitt, turned 17, turned 18, authorities later held in Dallas. He is a \$1 million bond. Whether he is a threat to the school is not known. Haynes is on surveillance for the school through

See AFFIDAVIT

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Photos by Juan Figueroa/Staff Photographer

Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, introduced Senate Bill 2, creating an education savings account program for private school education, on Wednesday at the Texas Capitol in Austin. The House version of the bill, which involves school funding, passed overwhelmingly Wednesday.

Education moves front and center

Lawmakers debate voucher-like plan, public school funding

By PHILIP JANKOWSKI
Austin Bureau
and TALIA RICHMAN
Staff Writer

AUSTIN — Debate was expected to go late into the night Wednesday as lawmakers in the Texas House were considering legislation that spends \$8 billion for public schools and creates a voucher-like program.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows called the two bills the "Texas Two Step" to improve

First up was the school finance bill that aims to provide "landmark funding for Texas public schools," said Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, who authored House Bill 2. It passed overwhelmingly, 144-4, on Wednesday afternoon, with four Republicans voting against it.

"This is more money for Texas public education than any other piece of legislation in the



Rep. Josey Garcia, D-San Antonio, spoke out against the voucher-like program on Wednesday at the Capitol in Austin.

Over students in Texas lose v

Terminations p effort to curb in campus Gaza p

By MARCELA I
Staff Writer
marcela.rodriques@

At least 306 international students in Texas have had their visas terminated by the federal government in recent days, according to universities across the state.

The number of school officials learning about terminations by checking a system that monitors international student visas.

At least 176 visas from students in the Texas System, according to Randa Safady. That is a university of Texas at Dallas. At the university, visas for 38 students.

The specific justifications for visa revocations are not clear. Due to federal laws, universities cannot share personal information about students.

Across the country, 1,000 visas have been revoked, according to media reports. Some are part of President Donald Trump's effort to reduce immigration. Protests against that are viewed by some as anti-semitic.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security wrote that officials consider the situation after the visa

See DOZEN



A MESSAGE FROM REP. SHOFNER!

LISTEN HERE!

