



## Update on House Bill 22

May 26, 2017

Dear Key Communicators,

I wanted to share one more piece of information with you today regarding important legislation that affects all of us in public education. My previous letter discussed the school finance situation in Texas. I now want to update you now on HB 22 - the school accountability bill that we designed to help with the A-F ratings system.

As was with HB 21, HB 22 was a very good piece of legislation coming out of the House of Representatives. If you remember, this bill accomplished several things.

1. HB 22 reduced the number of domains from five to three. These domains were: student achievement, student progress and school climate.
2. It included non-test, non STAAR based indicators.
3. Included alternate assessments in lieu of STAAR exams (these assessments are quality assessments being used by districts across Texas).
4. HB 22 created a weighted system where districts are held more accountable for students that are continuously enrolled in our schools.
5. It delayed full implementation of the system until the 2019-20 school year. This gives TEA time to do this right. As many of you know, all too often major parts of policy changes at the statewide level are rushed and implemented in a haphazard manner and local school systems are left trying to figure out what is expected of them.

The process is the same as HB 21. The House approved HB 22 146-0 and sent it to the Senate for consideration. This bill was sent to the Senate almost seven weeks ago and at

2:30 am yesterday morning, the Senate passed a stripped-down version of the original HB 22. The Senate literally took a good bill and sent back a much weaker and less meaningful accountability bill. Basically, it was good policy coming out of the House and now it's mediocre - at best - policy. The Senate version took away almost all of the proposed changes with the exception for the continuous enrollment provision and also added a fourth domain - closing the achievement gaps between racial and socioeconomic groups.

Now that the Senate version has passed, it is back to the House. The House may decide to pass the bill as is, or negotiate with the Senate through the conference committee process I explained in my previous letter. The Board and I prefer the House version, as it included provisions to measure a student, a campus and a school district as a whole. The Senate version takes us back to where we are all graded by a single test. I will update you with more as soon I as I know anything.

Thank you for serving as Key Communicator. Again, enjoy your weekend and please remember why we celebrate Memorial Day, to honor those who have given their lives for our freedom.



HD Chambers  
Superintendent

#### **Holidays**

May 29, 2017 - Memorial Day

#### **Graduation**

**May 31 at Coleman Coliseum**

Kerr High School - 3:30 p.m.

Alief Early College High School - 7:00 p.m.

#### **June 4 at Berry Center**

Hastings High School - 9:00 a.m.

Taylor High School - 12:30 p.m.

Elsik High School - 4:00 p.m.

#### **School Board Meeting**

June 20, 2017

#### **First Day of 2017-18 School Year**

August 16, 2017

Follow us on [twitter](#)

It is the policy of Alief ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Alief ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.