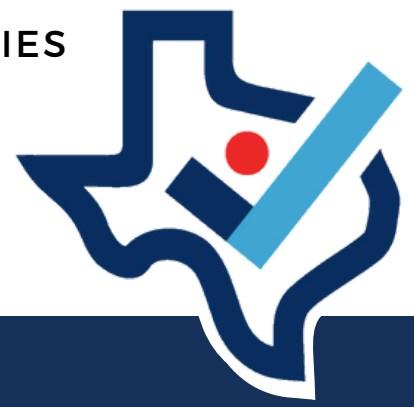


Senate Bill (SB) 568

Senator Paul Bettencourt



Reforming Special Education Funding

SB 568 would significantly alter the delivery of special education funding in Texas. It would transition the finance method from a placement-based system to a service intensity-based model, ensuring resources are allocated based on student needs. The bill would also establish grant programs to serve students with autism or dyslexia, as well as a program to increase the number of qualified and appropriately-credentialed special education staff. SB 568 would increase financial support to school districts for full and individual initial evaluations.



The rising demand for special education services has led to severe challenges across Texas. Fort Bend ISD, whose special education students make up 14% of its student population, faced a \$33.6 million shortfall in state and federal special education funding. Round Rock ISD noted a 25% increase in special education enrollment over five years.



In 2021, lawmakers established the Texas Commission on Special Education Funding to study methods of financing special education in public schools. The bipartisan body issued a report to the Legislature in December 2022, which included a number of recommendations. SB 568 seeks to enact more than half of those recommendations.



Supporters of SB 568 include: Autism Society of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Disability Rights Texas, Texans Care for Children, Texas Academic Language Therapy Association, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Dyslexia Coalition, Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and the Texas Public Charter Schools Association.



“Special education is an area that will always require careful monitoring and fine-tuning, but SB 568 is a firm paradigm for the future of special education.”

Testimony from the
Texas Public Policy Foundation to the
Senate Education K-16 Committee,
March 2025