



# The Senate of Texas

**CÉSAR J. BLANCO**

TEXAS SENATOR  
DISTRICT 29

**Press Release**

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## **Senator César J. Blanco Votes FOR Teacher Pay Raises & AGAINST Vouchers**

**Austin, Texas** – Today, the Texas Senate approved Senate Bill 9 which included \$3.3 billion to increase salaries for public school teachers across Texas.

“Teachers are the backbone of our public schools, but for years, teachers have been asked to do more with less,” said Senator Blanco. “According to the National Education Association, Texas ranks 26th in teacher pay, paying nearly \$7,500 below the national average. Teachers deserve far more than these modest raises, but it’s a step in the right direction. This increase will help address the teacher shortages in rural and underserved communities by attracting and retaining teachers.”

Senator Blanco joint-authored an amendment to increase the proposed teacher pay raise to \$10,000, but the amendment ultimately failed along party lines, with Democrats supporting and Republicans opposing. Senator Blanco also co-authored Senate Bill 693 to raise teacher salaries by \$15,000.

Senator Blanco subsequently voted against Senate Bill 8, which creates education savings accounts, also known as “school vouchers.” However, S.B. 8 passed by a 18 to 13 vote.

“I am disappointed to see the Texas Senate approve school vouchers and divert scarce public school dollars to private schools,” said Senator Blanco. “Giving private schools a hand up at the expense of public schools is not the answer. We must ensure the public schools that kids go to have the resources and personnel our students need. Our kids can succeed in any public school if we are providing the resources to support them.”

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