



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Senator César J. Blanco Votes to Boost Texas Public Schools

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas Senate approved House Bill 2, investing **\$8.5 billion** in new public education funding, the largest single increase in state history. Under this bill, Senate District 29 will receive **\$164 million** in new state funding to support local public schools, educators, and students. House Bill 2 includes:

- **\$1.3 billion** in Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) to assist districts with expenses like insurance, utilities, and TRS contributions
- **\$300 million** in additional funds for small and mid-size schools
- **\$1,600** increase in per-pupil funding
- **\$4.2 billion** for permanent teacher and staff pay raises
- **\$430 million** for school safety
- **\$135 million** for teacher preparation and certification programs
- Nearly **\$2 billion** to update special education formulas and fund early learning interventions, and Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- **Free** pre-K for children of Texas teachers.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“This bill is a major win for the neighborhood schools from El Paso, to the Big Bend, to the Permian Basin.

“From large urban districts like El Paso ISD to small rural ones like Valentine ISD, each faces unique challenges, but the need is the same: more resources to support our students and the people who serve them. This bill takes a step in the right direction with \$164 million in new funding for public education.”

“While House Bill 2 boosts funding for all districts, the added support for small and mid-sized schools will help close pay gaps and make it easier to attract and keep teachers, putting rural Texas schools on stronger footing than ever before.

“Just as important, this bill supports the entire team that keeps our schools running: the bus drivers who get our kids to and from school safely every day, the cafeteria workers who keep them fed and ready to learn, the instructional aides who support our teachers and students in the classroom, the nurses who help keep our children healthy, the librarians who open the world to our students through books and resources, and the custodians who ensure students and staff have a clean, safe space to learn every day.

"Our work isn't done yet. With HB 2 headed to the governor's desk, the focus turns to building on this momentum and securing more comprehensive, equitable funding for every public school in Texas."