

BUDGET:

House Appropriations Committee – The House Appropriations Committee took up:

On Monday, the House Appropriations Committee took up:

SB 1 by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) is the **general appropriations** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted. It is set on the House Calendar for April 22, 2021.*

Reported From Committee:

HB 2 by Greg Bonnen (R- Friendswood) is the **supplemental appropriations** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Appropriations Committee. It is set on the House Calendar for April 15, 2021.*

HB 2896 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would dedicate and rededicate revenue for use in **certifying the budget**. *It was reported favorably from the House Appropriations Committee.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

House Public Education Committee – On Tuesday, the House Public Education Committee took up:

HB 24 by Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) would require the Commissioner of Education to distribute funds to each school district to provide at least one **playground** in the district that is inclusive and **accessible for students with disabilities**. *It was left pending.*

HB 204 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would require school districts and charters to provide a **landline telephone or panic button** in every classroom that allows for immediate contact with emergency services and law enforcement agencies. *It was left pending.*

HB 370 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would institute a **two-school-year delay** on implementation on public school **accountability rules** adopted by the Commissioner of Education unless a shorter implementation period is required by law. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 742 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would allow parents or guardians of **students with significant cognitive disabilities** to request that the student be exempted from the administration of an alternative assessment instrument. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 750 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would require **school districts** to post the district's **employment policy** on the district's internet website. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 764 by Matt Krause (R-Fort Worth) would make several changes related to **student assessments**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 1016 by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would require school districts and charters to adopt a policy on active shooter drills and provide notice to parents of an active shooter drill before the district can conduct an **active shooter drill**. *It was left pending.*

HB 1252 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from establishing a shorter period for filing a due process complaint alleging a **violation of state or federal special education laws**. *It was left pending.*

HB 1568 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would increase the acceptable deviation permitted in the comptroller's **school district value study** from five percent to ten percent. *It was left pending.*

HB 2193 by Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) would require the University Interscholastic League to ensure **students with disabilities** have an opportunity to participate in team athletic activities by establishing an **adaptive sports program**. *It was left pending.*

HB 2391 by Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) would allow an open-enrollment **charter school that fills available positions by lottery** to use a weighted lottery that assigns weights to applicants if the applicant is eligible to participate in the school's special education program, a student of limited English proficiency or educationally disadvantaged. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2465 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would add cultural inclusion in the enrichment curriculum and would require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum on cultural inclusivity that a school district or charter must use in the district's or school's **cultural inclusivity courses**. *It was left pending.*

HB 2664 by Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-Weslaco) would allow **school districts** to hold **election for its officers** on the November uniform election date and to transition the terms of office to three- or four-year staggered terms. *It was left pending.*

HB 2681 by Terry Wilson (R-Granite Shoals) would require an elective course providing academic **study of the Bible** to students in grades six, seven, or eight to be considered as a social studies course for curriculum requirement purposes. *It was left pending.*

HB 2800 by Jay Dean (R-Longview) would eliminate **state assessments** not required by federal law. *It was left pending.*

HB 3089 by Lacey Hull (R-Smithville) would require meetings of a school district's **local school health advisory council** to be open meetings. *It was left pending.*

HB 3400 by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) would provide that if a **peace officer**, who is a parent reasonably fears for the officer's **student's safety**, the student must be transferred to another campus or district that is agreeable to the peace officer upon request. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3430 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a program to provide grants to school districts and charters with campuses designated as **full-service community schools** that provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students,

students' family members, and community members that result in improved educational outcomes. *It was left pending.*

HB 3449 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would add **physical therapists** to the list of persons who are authorized to **remove a student** from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition if the person believes the student might have **sustained a concussion**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3638 by Jarvis Johnson (D-Houston) would require the State Board of Education to establish an **African American Studies Advisory Board**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3668 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would eliminate **state assessments** that are not required under federal law. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3889 by Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston) would prohibit Texas Education Agency from requiring a student who is educationally disadvantaged to pay any fees or costs associated with **broadband internet access**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3979 by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would require the State Board of Education to adopt Texas essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's **civic knowledge** for the social studies curriculum. *It was left pending.*

HB 4096 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to jointly develop and make available a **model data-sharing agreement**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4257 by Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston) would require school district **trauma-informed care policies** to address the district's plan for providing support to students, teachers, and district staff in the event of a crisis. *It was left pending.*

HB 4334 by Ina MInjarez (D-San Antonio) would require school districts to provide students and their parents with **information** regarding the eligibility requirements for **public assistance programs**. *It was voted out favorably.*

Senate Education Committee – On Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

SB 272 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require school district boards of trustees to create a nonvoting **student trustee position** on the board. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 279 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require high school and higher education **student identification cards** to include contact for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, the campus police or security department, and a local **suicide prevention hotline**, if available. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 560 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require the Texas Education Agency to develop a strategic plan that sets tangible **goals** and establishes timelines to **increase the number of educators certified in bilingual education**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 746 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require parents to provide the **student's address, phone number, and e-mail address** to the school district within two weeks of the beginning of the school year and within two weeks after the date the information changes. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 801 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require Texas Education Agency to develop an **agriculture education program** for elementary students to encourage appreciation and improve students' understanding of agriculture. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1095 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require school districts to notify parents of students in ninth grade or above of the availability of **career and technology** education programs or other **work-based education programs**. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1191 by Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) would clarify that "**school resource officer**" does not include a peace officer who provides law enforcement at a public school or event only for extracurricular activities. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1590 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the State Board for Educator Certification to propose **flexible options for field-based experience** or internships. *It was left pending.*

Senate Education Committee – On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

SB 27 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would make several changes to the **Virtual School Network**. *It was left pending.*

SB 396 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require **local school health advisory councils** to determine the extent to which the district's policies regarding the marketing and commercial advertising of food products conflict with recommendations developed by the council. *It was left pending.*

SB 411 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require the governing body of an open-enrollment **charter school** to hold each **open meeting**. *It was left pending.*

SB 776 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require the University Interscholastic League to ensure **students with disabilities** have an opportunity to participate in team athletic activities by establishing an **adaptive sports program**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1232 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Permanent School Fund Investment Management Organization** to manage the permanent school fund. *It was left pending.*

SB 2066 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would change the statutory references from "students of limited English proficiency" to "**emergent bilingual students**." *It was left pending.*

Reported/Voted From Committee:

HB 30 by James Talarico (D-Round Rock) would require the **Windham School District** to provide a course of instruction that includes the required **curriculum leading to a standard high school diploma**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Corrections Committee.*

HB 81 by Eddie Rodriguez (D-Austin) would allow a **campus turnaround plan** to operate as a **community school** that provides strategies and programs to coordinate academic, social, and health services that reduce barriers to learning.

It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.

HB 129 by Mary Gonzalez (D-El Paso) would require **digital citizenship** and media literacy education for K-12 students. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 189 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would apply statutory provisions related to **severance payments to school superintendents** for early termination to open-enrollment **charter school** administrators or chief executive officers. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 269 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to issue **specialty license plates** for classroom **teachers** with at least 15 years of service and retirees with at least 20 years of service. *It was voted out favorably from the House Transportation Committee.*

HB 572 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would authorize the commissioner to establish the **Dropout Recovery Competency-Based Educational Pilot Program**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 622 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would require the State Board for Educator Certification to create abbreviated **educator preparation programs** for a person seeking a certification to teach courses in **marketing** and a certification to teach courses in **health science technology**. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 998 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require the Commissioner of Education to evaluate a **dropout recovery school** under **alternative education accountability** procedures. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1014 by John Bucy, III (D-Austin) would require high school and higher education **student identification cards** to include contact for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, the campus police or security department, and a local **suicide prevention hotline**, if available. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1080 by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would allow **students who receive outpatient mental health services** to participate in University Interscholastic League activities. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1144 by Ana-Maria Ramos (D-Dallas) would require teachers to be trained regarding **suicide prevention** at least every two years, instead of on a schedule adopted by Texas Education Agency. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1194 by Gene Wu (D-Houston) would require school districts and charters to report by campus **incident-based data** related to restraints administered to a student, citations issued to a student, and arrests made of a student. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1207 by Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City) would require the State Board for Educator Certification to establish the training requirements and course work a **principal** must successfully complete to receive a **school turnaround specialist endorsement** as an addendum to a principal certificate. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1504 by Christina Morales (D-Houston) would add **ethnic studies**, including Mexican American and African American studies into the social studies curriculum. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1776 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would require school districts and charters to offer a high school **elective course** for one-half credit on the **founding principles of the United States**. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2256 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to establish a **bilingual special education certificate**. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2287 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require the Texas Education Agency to establish and maintain an **electronic database of mental health services and trainings** provided by school districts. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2766 by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish the **Rural Dual Credit Pilot Program** for eligible public junior colleges to provide financial assistance to educationally disadvantaged high school students for the cost of enrolling in dual credit courses. *It was voted out favorably from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 2802 by Jay Dean (R-Longview) would require the Commissioner of Education to apply for a **federal waiver to suspend assessments** in a school year where a disaster declaration significantly disrupts school district operations. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2874 by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) would require school districts and charters to issue a **student identification card** to high school students that includes the student's name, photograph and date of birth. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2975 by Lacey Hull (R-Stephenville) would prohibit a **peace officer** performing law enforcement duties on **school property** or at a school-sponsored activity from restraining a student ten years of age or younger unless the student poses a serious risk of harm to the student or another person. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3256 by Sam Harless (R-Spring) would make **home addresses of teachers** and principals in government records confidential and exempt from disclosure. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3261 by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) would make several changes related to **electronic administration of assessment instruments**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3298 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a **competitive professional development grant program** to encourage teachers to obtain **computer science certification** and continue **professional development in coding**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3299 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would require the mental health portion of the health curriculum to include an emphasis on the **relationship between physical and mental health**. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3445 by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) would require school districts and charters to annually review their **fund balances** to determine the amount of **excess funds** are held by the district or school. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3731 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would make several changes to the **public school accountability** rating system. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3864 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require school districts to excuse a student from attending school for a **career investigation day**. *It was voted out favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 4465 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a **grant program overcoming the educational impact of disasters**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

SB 369 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would allow parents to opt their student out of the requirement to submit a **financial aid application** as a condition of high school graduation. *It was voted out favorably from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 462 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would authorize the **transportation allotment** to be used for transporting a meal or instructional materials to a student's residence. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1063 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would allow the one-half credit in economics required in the high school curriculum to be on **personal financial literacy and economics**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1267 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would make several changes regarding **continuing education** and training requirements for educators. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1356 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would authorize non-profit teacher organizations to participate in a program that facilitates the **tutoring** of public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 **by active or retired certified teachers** who are members of the organization. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1522 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would authorize the Commissioner of Education to adjust the **average daily attendance** of a school district for the

amount of instructional days during the **semester in which a calamity first occurs**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1615 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would make several changes regarding the **adult high school charter school program**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1696 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the Texas Education Agency to establish a system to coordinate the anonymous **sharing of information concerning cyberattacks** between public and private schools in the state. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1697 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would authorize a **parent** or guardian to **elect for a student to repeat** or delay prekindergarten and kindergarten, to repeat grades one through eight, or to repeat a high school course. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Bills Passed:

HB 3165 by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would make it an affirmative defense to an allegation of **truant conduct** that one or more absences were due to the child's voluntary absence from the child's home because of abuse. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Next Week:

Tuesday, April 20, 2021:

8:00 a.m. House Public Education Committee will meet in E1.030 of the capitol extension to take up:

HB 278 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require a criminal history background check on prospective managers before the Commissioner of Education appoints a **board of managers** for a school district.

HB 424 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would require the State Board of Education to conduct a **review of the essential knowledge and skills** for the foundation curriculum and as necessary, revise the essential knowledge and skills to narrow the number and scope of student expectations for each subject and grade level.

It would limit the State Board of Education 's biennial proclamation for instructional materials to 75 percent of the total amount used to fund the **Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment** for the biennium.

HB 517 by Michelle Beckley (D-Carrollton) would require school districts to adopt a policy regarding **custodian workload** for district facilities.

HB 586 by Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would establish the **school district equipment and improvement fund**.

HB 605 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would require school districts to adopt a **healthy and safe school water plan** that provides for periodic testing for lead in school water sources and reduces exposure to elevated levels of lead in school water sources.

HB 1206 by Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City) would allow the **instructional materials and technology allotment** to be used for **costs associated with distance learning**.

HB 1302 by Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City) would add to **indicators of achievement** students who have earned a diploma after not more than three and one-half years of high school attendance.

HB 1613 by Ray Lopez (D-El Paso) would extend the deadline for teachers and principals to attend a **teacher literacy achievement academy** from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2023-2024 school year.

HB 1726 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would ensure schools and school districts **track bullying and cyberbullying incidents** and use this information to adopt preventative measures to help students.

HB 1744 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require Texas Education Agency to develop a program of study for use in **career and technology education programs** that prepares and assists students in pursuing **a career teaching bilingual education**, English as a second language, or Spanish.

HB 1754 by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would require **student identification cards** for students in grade six and higher to contain the contact information for the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**.

HB 2258 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require the Texas Education Agency to develop a strategic plan that sets tangible **goals** and establishes timelines to **increase the number of educators certified in bilingual education**.

HB 2688 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require a school district **trustee that votes** in favor of making a **severance payment to a superintendent** of the school district less than one year after the trustee voted in favor of accepting or extending the superintendent's contract or increasing the superintendent's salary, to seek re-election at the next regularly scheduled trustee election to maintain a position on the board regardless of the time remaining on the trustee's term.

HB 2721 by Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville) would prohibit a **student who assaults a referee**, judge or other official from participating in an extracurricular activity.

HB 2769 by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would require the State Board Education to adopt essential knowledge and skills that include **coding for video games** in the technology applications curriculum.

HB 2846 by Garrnet Coleman (D-Houston) would require school districts and charters to provide notice to parents if there is not a **full-time nurse** assigned to be present at the school for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year.

HB 3033 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require school districts to **report** through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) the total number of students, including the students' age, rate, and gender, transported from the school district or charter for an **emergency mental health detention**.

HB 3456 by James White (R-Hillister) would provide that money received by **schools** under the purview of the **Texas Department of Criminal Justice**, the Texas **School for the Blind** and Visually Impaired, and the Texas **School for the Deaf** would be considered part of the foundation school program and not subject to any budget reductions requested by the Legislative Budget Board.

HB 3489 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require Texas Education Agency to develop and distribute for use by school districts and charters health and safety guidelines for best practices for the **effective integration of digital devices in public schools**.

HB 3862 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would allow a **member of the board of trustees** of an independent school district to be **removed from office** by a three-fourths majority vote.

HB 3888 by Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston) would allow a **teacher employed under a term contract** to resign any time during which a state of emergency or declared disaster.

HB 4042 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would require students participating in interscholastic **athletic activities** to participate based on the **student's biological sex**.

HB 4124 by Gina Hinojosa (D-Austin) would allow **special-purpose school districts** to prioritize military-connected students when enrolling students or creating a waitlist.

HB 4198 by Bryan Slaton (R-Royce City) would authorize the board of trustees of a school district to **exempt** students from the administration of any **assessments not required by federal law**.

HB 4509 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would require educators to **cultivate in students an informed patriotism**, which consists primarily of leading students through close study of America's and Texas' founding documents. **HB 4525** by Gary Gates (R-Richmond) would require the State Board of Education to approve **career and technology courses** that are offered online or through an internet portal maintained by the district or agency and update the list of approved courses at least annually.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

9:00 a.m. Senate Education Committee will meet in E1.028 of the capitol extension to take up:

SB 215 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish the **Office of Inspector General at the Texas Education Agency**.

SB 980 by Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would require the Texas Education Agency to establish a **suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention program**.

SB 1277 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require an agreement between a school district and an institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to designate at least one employee of the district or institution as responsible for providing **academic advising to a student who enrolls in a dual credit course**.

SB 1351 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would prohibit a **school district** from **donating food** that must be maintained at a certain temperature for safety unless the food has been maintained at the required temperature.

SB 1716 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would require Texas Education Agency to establish and administer a **supplemental special education services and instructional materials program** for special education students.

SB 1955 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would be the **Learning Pod Protection Act** to ensure that parents that choose to voluntarily associate to advance the primary or secondary education of their children would not be subject to local restriction or regulation.

SB 2044 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would establish the **State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**.

SB 2050 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require (instead of allow) a student to be removed from class and placed in a disciplinary alternative education program or expelled if the **student engages in bullying**.

STATEWIDE – COVID-19 RESPONSE:

DSHS Weekly Vaccine Distribution Update – On April 9th, the Department of State Health Services issued its weekly update on Vaccine distribution in Texas for the week of April 12th. It said, “More than 1.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be shipped to providers across Texas the week of April 12th. The Texas Department of State Health Services is allocating 796,360 first doses (*compared to 1,094,920 first doses last week*) to 468 providers (*compared to 2,011 providers last week*) in 116 counties (*compared to 200 counties last week*). DSHS is ordering 605,390 second doses (*compared to 626,290 second doses last week*) for people vaccinated a few weeks ago. An estimated 500,000 additional first and second doses (*compared to 900,000 last week*) are expected to be available to pharmacy locations, federally-qualified health centers and dialysis centers as allocated directly by the federal government. Texas will receive less vaccine this week due to a reduction of approximately 350,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has told states to expect smaller weekly allocations of the J&J vaccine until a plant in Baltimore is authorized to participate in vaccine production. Here is some additional information provided:

- Texas has now administered more than 13.6 million doses, an increase of 1.8 million in the past week and 3 million since vaccination was opened to everyone 16 years and older at the beginning of last week.
- Overall, more than 8.8 million people have received at least one dose, and 5.25 million are now fully vaccinated.
- About four in 10 of all eligible Texans have gotten a COVID-19 shot, and almost one-quarter are fully vaccinated.
- Among Texas seniors, more than seven in 10 have received at least one dose, and more than half are now fully vaccinated.

Pause in Johnson & Johnson Vaccines – On April 13th, the Texas Department of State Health Services is asking vaccine providers in Texas to pause all

administration of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine following the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

The pause is recommended following reports of blood clots in six individuals 6 to 13 days after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The announcement said, "Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare and are being further evaluated to ensure vaccine safety. People who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. None of the cases of blood clots reported at this time have occurred in Texas, where more than 500,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered. DSHS has not been notified of any change in vaccine distribution. Providers that have or receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should continue to store it in the proper conditions. DSHS will provide updates as they become available."

Governor Greg Abbott issued a statement following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recommendation to pause all administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine saying, "The State of Texas is working in tandem with the federal government and vaccine providers to temporarily pause all administration of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. While no cases of blood clots have been reported in Texas, we are taking the reports of rare adverse effects seriously and are working to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines administered in our state continue to be safe and effective. I urge Texans who do experience adverse reactions, such as severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccination, to contact their health care providers or call 2-1-1 to receive a referral for a health care provider. Vaccines are a crucial tool to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and remain the most effective way to combat the virus in our communities. I continue to encourage Texans who wish to receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to sign up."