



PERKINSON LAW FIRM

Senate's Proposed Education Budget

The Senate's version of the budget includes \$1.3 billion in additional spending for public education over two years. One of the biggest differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget is the approach to teacher raises. The House included an average 4.6% raise for teachers with more than 15 years of experience. The Senate, however, gave raises for all teachers of approximately 3.5% over two years, with \$500 bonuses for teachers with 15-24 years of experience and \$1,000 to teachers with 25+ years. The Senate also provided \$15 million in both years for additional principal pay, with the average raise around 6.2%. The budget would establish the Principal Recruitment Supplement Program, where a principal could receive a \$30,000 salary supplement if he or she goes to a school in the bottom 5% of the state, as defined by school performance grades.

The Senate budget does not include the arts education requirement and accompanying program enhancement allotment changes included in the House budget.

Other education provisions in the Senate budget:

- \$4.8B across three accounts for school construction and maintenance over 10 years, starting immediately;
- funding for 100 new school psychologists to ensure every school district has at least one psychologist;
- \$10M in recurring funding in FY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and \$8.2M non-recurring in 2019-2020 for public school units to employ, contract with and/or train school mental health personnel as well as contract for other health support services;
- \$15M in non-recurring funding In FY 2019-2020 for school safety grants and \$6M recurring funding for school resource officers;
- a requirement that school districts provide \$300 to teachers to purchase classroom supplies through an app like ClassWallet and get reimbursed;
- a provision removing local school boards ability to take county commissioners to court if capital funding is not resolved in mediation; and
- requirement for a high school Financial literacy class, with \$1 million allocated for associated training.