

Legislative Update to the Board of Trustees

June 2026

House Public Education Committee Hearing – Key Takeaways (June 1)

The House Public Education Committee met to review implementation of HB 2, teacher workforce issues, and special education funding.

- **HB 2 & School Finance:**

TEA provided updates on new funding elements, including teacher allotments and special education reforms. While targeted investments (e.g., teacher pay and rural CTE pathways) are showing benefits, districts and legislators raised concerns about **funding instability, formula complexity, and projections that vary significantly**, making budgeting difficult. Many districts report that overall funding is **not keeping pace with inflation and rising costs**.

- **Teacher Recruitment & Retention:**

Teacher pay has increased and student-teacher ratios have improved slightly. Expanded incentive and residency programs are helping, but challenges remain. Testimony emphasized that **compensation alone is not enough**—mentorship, leadership support, and strong working conditions are critical to retaining teachers. Concerns continue regarding reliance on **uncertified teachers and higher turnover rates**.

- **Special Education:**

The state is transitioning to a new **student-needs-based funding model**, with special education enrollment continuing to rise. While the approach is intended to better align resources, districts highlighted **implementation challenges, data demands, and the need for stable transitional funding**.

- **Public Testimony Themes:**

Stakeholders consistently called for:

- Increased **basic allotment funding**
- More **predictable and transparent funding systems**
- A shift away from **ADA-based funding instability**
- Stronger **support for educators and special education services**

Overall: Legislators acknowledged progress under HB 2 but also emphasized the need to address **unintended consequences, funding unpredictability, and long-term sustainability** so districts can effectively plan and operate.