

Public School Defenders

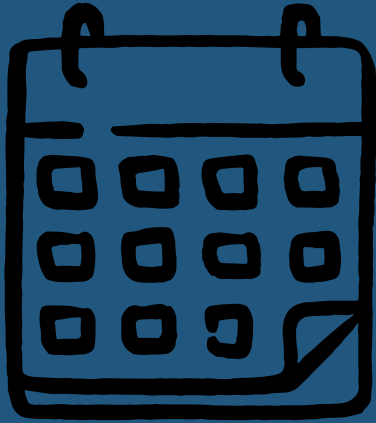
Grace Bonilla

Public Education Policy Advocate



★ **TEXAS IMPACT**
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Agenda Overview



1. Initial Activity
2. Vouchers - 2025 Update
3. Religious Freedom in Public Schools
4. Individual Liberties - What's At Risk?
5. Conclusion/Bills to excited about!

Quick activity!



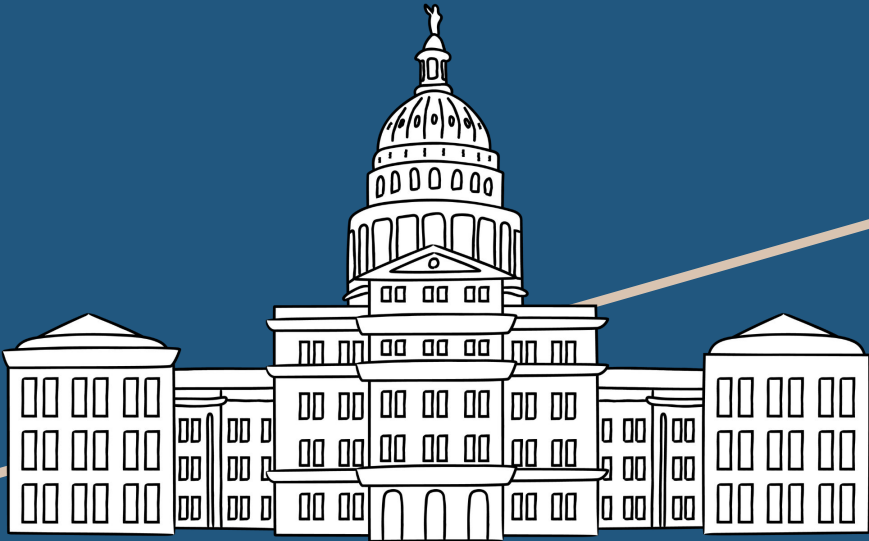
Talk to those next to you.

Share the following:

1. What school district do you live in/advocate for?
2. What is the most pressing issue in your district? Why?

After **5(ish) minutes**, one person from each pair will share a summary of what their group discussed.

Vouchers



What is the update on vouchers?

Who are the big players this session?

What can we do as Public School Defenders?

Voucher Credit: \$10,000* or \$11,500 for a child with a disability.

*\$3,840 more than the current basic allotment

Religious Freedom in Public Schools



- Allotted time for prayer in school
 - SB 380 by Sen. Middleton & HB 1425 by Rep. Spiller
- **Another Chaplain Bill**
 - HB 462 by Rep. Guillen
- Ten Commandments in the classroom
 - HB 1009 by Rep. Olcott, HB 1348 by Rep. Little

Individual Liberties at Risk



- Bathroom bills
 - HB 1014 & 1016 by Rep. Toth
- Genetic Testing for UIL
 - HB 1123 by Rep. J. Lopez
- Restrictions on Gender Presentation/Instruction
 - HB 344 by Rep. Tepper, HB 973 by Rep. Noble, HB 976 by Rep. Toth, SB 86 by Sen. Hall

Public School Defenders



What do we do as PSDs?

- Weekly meetings
- Occasional speakers
- PSD Advocacy Day 2025

Public schools are pillars of the community. As people of faith, we must encourage investment in our community!

The Bright Side!



What bills do we like? What should you support?

- **Raising the Basic Allotment**
 - HB 351, HB 595, HB 1770, SB 597
- **Enrollment Based Funding**
 - HB 276, HB 1157
- **Free or Reduced Pre-K**
 - HB 190, HB 225, HB 358, HB 494, HB 1048, HB 1569, SB 42, SB 163
- **Teacher Leave to Testify**
 - SB 183

Q&A

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**QR Code for the Public School
Defenders Team:**

