

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Claire Sharp MMS Legislative Chair

The 2009 session of the Texas Legislature reached its midpoint on March 23, 2009. More than 7000 bills have been filed this session. The session ends June 1, so things should begin to move fairly quickly.

Some of the main items facing the Legislature are the budget, the president's stimulus package and continuing to pay for damage caused by Hurricane Ike. Education is also a hot topic. Currently, 406 bills that have been referred to the House Committee on Public Education and 195 to the House Committee on Higher Education. The Senate Committee on Education has 170 bills and 108 have been referred to the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Here are a few that might be of interest:

- HB3 and SB3 – Accountability: Addresses accountability system with goal to shift the focus from a single test to overall post-secondary readiness, proposes two-tier system for recognizing performance, proposes changes to graduation (diploma) plans.
- HB1555 and SB982 – School Funding
- HB130 and SB21 – Pre K
- SB 175 – Top 10% Rule
- SB 1831 – Private school participation in UIL

For more information, visit:

Texas Legislature Online - lookup a particular bill, sign up to receive updates on particular bills

Texas PTA website www.txpta.org (under News) – sign up for updates

SBISD website www.springbranchisd.com - check homepage and Policy Administration/ Governmental Engagement Dept page

To obtain more information about National PTA's advocacy activities at the federal level, visit www.pta.org and select Take Action tab.