



Senator Eliot Shapleigh

District 29

Texas Press Release

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TEXAS SENATE ADDS \$800 TEACHER PAY RAISE TO SCHOOL FINANCE BILL

"With tonight's amendment, we guarantee a direct pay raise to teachers, counselors and librarians. A motivated teacher in the classroom is the best way to guarantee a good education."

AUSTIN - Today, the Texas Senate added an amendment to the state's school finance bill that would provide for a \$800 dollar pay raise to Texas teachers. Senator Shapleigh voted in favor of the amendment.

[H.B. 3646](#), the state's school finance bill which passed the Senate today, changes current law relating to public school finance. The bill describes how the approximately \$35 billion set aside for public school operations in the state budget should be allocated.

An amendment to the bill offered by Senator John Whitmire (D- Houston) specifies that every teacher in the state receive a minimum \$800 pay raise.

Before the amendment, [H.B. 3646](#) contained enough funding for a pay raise, but did not specify how districts needed to distribute that money. The House version of the bill did contain a specific pay raise amount, but that was stripped from the bill before coming to the Senate floor. Without a specific dollar amount in the bill, school districts would not have been mandated to make sure every Texas teacher gets a raise.

"With tonight's amendment, we guarantee a direct pay raise to teachers, counselors and librarians. A motivated teacher in the classroom is the best way to guarantee a good education," Senator Shapleigh said.

-More-

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Texas teachers' pay is currently more than \$6,000 below the national average and 20 percent below pay for comparable jobs here in Texas. Texas ranks 49th in the nation in average teacher salary as a percentage of average annual pay. Some 50,000 Texas classrooms lack an appropriately certified teacher for the subject taught.

With new federal stimulus money and [H.B. 3646](#), El Paso school districts will receive the following additional amounts per student for weighted average daily attendance (WADA) in 2010:

School District	American Reinvestment and Recovery Act	Change in state revenue per WADA
El Paso ISD	\$499.52	\$135.00
Socorro ISD	\$286.37	\$135.00
Ysleta ISD	\$420.05	\$350.00

Changes to [H.B. 3646](#) will need to be agreed upon by both the House and Senate before it can be sent to the Governor and signed into law.

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