86th Legislative Session Updates

School Safety Audits

**TEC 12.104(b) is amended**

- Open-enrollment charter schools must conduct a safety and security audit and report the results, per TEC 37.207

- Audit Cycles:
  1.) School Districts: 9/1/2017 – 8/31/2020 (no change)
  2.) Community Colleges: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2021 (no change)
  3.) Open-Enrollment Charter Schools: 9/1/2019 – 8/31/2022 (new requirement)

**TEC Chapter 37.108 is amended**

- To the extent possible, a district shall follow the safety and security audit procedures developed by the TxSSC or a person included in the registry established by the TxSSC

- In a district’s safety and security audit, the district must certify that the district used the funds provided to the district through the school safety allotment under TEC 42.168 only for the purposes provided by that section

- The audit report provided to the TxSSC must be signed by:
  1.) For a school district, the district’s board of trustees and superintendent; or
  2.) For a public junior college district, the president of the junior college district

**TEC Chapter 42.168 is added: School Safety Allotment**

- From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall provide to a school district an annual allotment in the amount provided by appropriation for each student in average daily attendance
• Funds allocated under this section must be used to improve school safety and security, including costs associated with:

1.) securing school facilities, including:
   a) improvements to school infrastructure;
   b) the use or installation of physical barriers; and
   c) the purchase and maintenance of:
      (i) security cameras or other security equipment; and
      (ii) technology, including communications systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in an emergency;

2.) providing security for the district, including:
   a) employing school district peace officers, private security officers, and school marshals; and
   b) collaborating with local law enforcement agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the district;

3.) school safety and security training and planning, including:
   a) active shooter and emergency response training;
   b) prevention and treatment programs relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and
   c) the prevention, identification, and management of emergencies and threats, including:
      (i) providing mental health personnel and support;
      (ii) providing behavioral health services; and
      (iii) establishing threat reporting systems; and

4.) providing programs related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

• A school district may use funds allocated under this section for equipment or software that is used for a school safety and security purpose and an instructional purpose, provided that the instructional use does not compromise the safety and security purpose of the equipment or software.

• A school district that is required to take action under Chapter 41 to reduce its wealth per student to the equalized wealth level is entitled to a credit, in the amount of the allotments to which the district is to receive as provided by appropriation, against the total amount required under Section 41.093 for the district to purchase attendance credits.

• The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.
TEC Chapter 37.207 is amended

- In addition to a review of a district's multihazard emergency operations plan under Section 37.2071, the center may require a district to submit its plan for immediate review if the district's audit results indicate that the district is not complying with applicable standards.

- If a district fails to report the results of its audit, the center shall provide the district with written notice that the district has failed to report its audit results and must immediately report the results to the center.

- If six months after the date of the initial notification the district has still not reported the results of its audit to the center, the center shall notify the agency and the district of the district's requirement to conduct a public hearing under Section 37.1081. This subsection applies only to a school district.