



## **BROAD COALITION APPLAUDS TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S PASSAGE OF LANDMARK STUDENT ASSESSMENT REFORM**

September 10, 2025

The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 8, sending the landmark legislation to Governor Greg Abbott for his signature. The bill, authored by Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, received statewide support, with more than 60 coauthors and cosponsors across both chambers.

HB 8 represents the most significant reform to student testing and school accountability in a generation. The bill replaces STAAR with shorter assessments spread throughout the year, reduces overall testing time in classrooms, and ensures parents and teachers get results they can use within days.

What HB 8 delivers for Texans

- **No More STAAR (2027–28):** STAAR is repealed and replaced with a smarter system that reduces overall testing.
- **Shorter, Smarter Assessments:** Adaptive, through-year tests reduce stress while giving a clearer picture of student progress.
- **Significant Teacher Engagement:** New tests would be developed in partnership with Texas teachers, who will be able to vet each question on the end-of-year exam.
- **Real-Time Feedback:** Parents and teachers will receive results within 48 hours to better support student learning.
- **More Time for Instruction:** Limits excessive benchmark testing, returning up to 15–30 classroom hours per student.
- **Predictable School Ratings:** A–F accountability ratings will be released on time every year, ending delays caused by litigation.
- **Fair and Transparent Rules:** Performance standards and accountability manuals must be published at least two years in advance, ensuring stability for schools.
- **Cross-Agency Coordination:** Aligns K–12, higher education, and workforce credentials to meet Texas' growing economic needs.
- **Legislative Oversight:** Directs the Texas Education Agency to provide updates to lawmakers before implementing the new tests in the 2027-2028 school year.

Broad support across Texas The bill is drawing praise from business, education and community leaders across the state.

"With HB 8, Texas families will finally have an assessment system that puts students first. Parents will receive faster, clearer results they can trust, and teachers will gain timely tools to support learning in the classroom. This bill ends the cycle of overtesting, and replaces it with transparency, fairness, and real accountability that helps every child succeed."

"HB 8 ensures Texas has a consistent, transparent accountability system that is vital for building a globally competitive workforce. Employers rely on this information to guide investment decisions and maximize talent, while schools and policymakers use it to drive continuous improvement. This bill strengthens public trust and keeps Texas competitive."

— Justin Yancy, President, Texas Business Leadership Council