

Office of School Finance

Special Legislative Districts – Universities



Legal References

Texas Education Code (TEC), §11.351; §48.053; §79.10(f); §87.505(g); §96.707(k); and §105.301(e)(3)

Background Information

The purpose of a special legislative district is to provide academically gifted and highly motivated junior and senior high school students with a challenging university-level curriculum. Special legislative districts allow students to complete high school graduation requirements, including requirements adopted under TEC, Section 28.025 for the advanced high school program, while attending a public institution of higher education for academic credit.

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley (Brownsville): TEC, §79.10(f) specifies that for each student enrolled in the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, county district number (CDN) 031-505, the academy is entitled to allotments from the Foundation School Program (FSP) fund under TEC, Chapter 48 as if the academy were a school district without a Tier One local share for purposes of Section 48.266.

Texas A&M International University: TEC, §87.505(g) specifies that for each student enrolled in the Texas Academy of International Studies, CDN 240-503, the academy is entitled to allotments from the FSP fund under TEC, Chapter 48 as if the academy were a school district without a Tier One local share for purposes of Section 48.266.

Lamar University (Beaumont): TEC, §96.707(k) specifies that for each student enrolled in the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities, CDN 123-503, the academy is entitled to allotments from the FSP under TEC, Chapter 48 as if the academy were a school district, without a Tier One local share for purposes of Section 48.266.

The University of North Texas (Denton): TEC, §105.301(e)(3) specifies that for each student enrolled in the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, CDN 061-501, the academy is entitled to allotments from the foundation school program under TEC, Chapter 48 as if the academy were a school district without a Tier One local share for purposes of Section 48.266.



Program Description

The four aforementioned special legislative districts report attendance data in the "Principal's Annual Report of Student Attendance and Contact Hours" and submit the data to the State Funding Division of the Texas Education Agency. The special legislative districts are entitled to the small and mid-size allotment (TEC, §48.101) and school safety allotment (TEC, §48.115) as part of their Tier One allotment and receive payments from the Available School Fund.

Effective with House Bill 3 (2019), TEC, §48.053 makes provisions for a special-purpose district to access funds, including payments from the Available School Fund, in the FSP as if the district had no Tier One local share for purposes of TEC, §48.256. TEC, §48.053 applies to a special-purpose school district operated by a general academic teaching institution, as defined by TEC, §61.003. These special-purpose school districts include the following:

- **The University of Texas at Austin HS**, CDN 227-506
- **Texas Tech University K-12**, CDN 152-504



Contact for More Information

State Funding Division, **(512) 463-9238** or sfinance@tea.texas.gov