

THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Texas closes in on school choice

Abbott addresses public school worries, critiques of voucherlike plan

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AUSTIN — Texas is “on the cusp” of approving a universal school choice bill that would allow public dollars to be spent on private school education, the state’s Republican leadership asserted on Tuesday.

Gov. Greg Abbott projected confidence as he once again pitched his No. 1 legislative priority while addressing chief criticism of the proposed education savings account program — that it would undermine public schools.

“We’re going to get this across the finish line,” Abbott said during a Capitol news conference. “When we do, Texans will see that when it comes to education, it’s not one or the other. It’s not either public schools or school choice. We can do both.”

Abbott’s voucherlike plan would be the first of its kind in Texas. It would allocate about \$10,000 to each student who used the ESA for private school. All Texas students would be eligi

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A bill’s journey

Gov. Greg Abbott again backs a universal school choice bill that would allow public dollars to be spent on private school education in a voucherlike system. This year, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has seen it through the Senate. House Speaker Dustin Burrows said he expects the bill to be out of committee next week, and approved shortly after that.

Student discipline solutions sought

Educators are facing ‘different type of kid today,’ lawmaker argues

By TALIA RICHMAN
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Texas lawmakers zeroed in on classroom discipline during a Tuesday hearing, with one Republican senator saying public schools are serving a “different type of kid today than what there was 20 years ago.”

The debate is part of a broader conversion the Legislature is having about rolling back some of its own discipline reforms. Following an embrace of “zero tolerance” in the 1990s, state lawmakers later dialed back after confronting data that showed huge numbers of students — disproportionately Black children and those with disabilities — were being kicked out of school.

Now, Sen. Charles Perry said schools need to be given back tools to respond to unruly and violent children. He is calling for students to be kicked off campus if they assault a teacher or threaten to bring a gun to school.

Perry wants students who commit these acts expelled and sent to one of the state’s Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs, which are schools overseen by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

“When you get to a point

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Education Lab

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Dallas gets its own pyramid



Liz Rymarev/Staff Photographer

A statue by Beverly Pepper sits at Hi Line Drive and Slocum Street. Born in Brooklyn, Pepper lived most of her life in Italy.



Anja Schlein/Special Contributor

The Nasher on Wednesday installed a sculpture on the Dallas Hi Line trail as part of a new partnership between the museum and the Loop Trail. The sculpture is Pepper’s *Dallas Pyramid*, made in 1971.

The Nasher Sculpture Center and The Loop Dallas announced Wednesday the first installation in a public art partnership that brings Nasher Public to the city’s expanded walk and bike trails, beginning with *Dallas Pyramid* (1971) by Beverly Pepper. The angular steel sculpture will be on view through the spring of 2026 on the Hi Line Connector at the intersection of Hi Line Drive and Slocum Street. Pepper, who passed away in 2020, first began planning site-specific sculptures to interact with the landscape, producing *Dallas Land Canal and Hillside* (1971-1975) for a grassy median at the entrance of NorthPark Center.

LEAKED DEFENSE MESSAGES

Entire chat is released

Top military adviser notably absent from air strikes discussion

By TARA COPP
The Associated Press

The Atlantic on Wednesday released the entire Signal chat among senior national security officials, showing that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth provided the exact timings of warplane launches and when bombs would drop — before the men and women flying those attacks against Yemen’s Houthis this month on behalf of the United States were airborne.

The disclosure follows two intense days during which leaders of President Donald Trump’s intelligence and defense agencies have struggled to explain how details — that current and former U.S. officials have said would have been classified — wound up on an unclassified Signal chat that included *Atlantic* Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Goldberg.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said no classified information was posted to the Signal chat.

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he and Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the

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RESTAURANTS

Remembering gems we lost

COVID forced the closure of 15 beloved eateries in D-FW


While the total number of restaurants in Dallas-Fort Worth increased every year between 2020 and today — an incredible economic triumph — thousands of restaurants in North Texas have closed in the past five years.

This list, presented in alphabetical order, is a look at some of the most shocking and significant restaurants in North Texas that didn’t survive the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 and March 2025.

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Afternoon showers



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L 60

Metro, back page

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METRO

Allred considers run


Former U.S. Rep. Colin Allred said he’s “seriously considering” a 2026 Senate campaign against John Cornyn. **1B**

SPORTSDAY

Rangers: Eye on the ball

Kevin Sherrington: Chris Young vows to avoid the same mistakes. **1C**

Evan Grant: Josh Jung has shown power, poise and potential. **1C**



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