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**LT. GOVERNOR PATRICK, SEN. LARRY TAYLOR INTRODUCE PRIORITY EDUCATION LEGISLATION**  
***-Moving Texas Education into the 21st Century-***

AUSTIN, TEXAS (March 3, 2015)...Today, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood), stood together with members of the Texas State Senate to discuss their vision of innovation and transformation for Texas education. Tuesday morning, Sen. Larry Taylor filed S.B. 6 regarding A-F public school performance ratings, S.B. 14 regarding parental empowerment, S.B. 894 regarding digital learning and S.B. 895 regarding opportunity school districts as a first step to addressing priority education reform for the 84th Legislative Session.

"It is vital for lawmakers to bring all Texas students into the 21st Century by removing roadblocks and encouraging innovative and transformative learning tools," Sen. Larry Taylor said. "Embracing change is not a choice. Texas students and parents demand it."

Legislation filed today prioritizes the individual needs of Texas students and empowers parents to shape their children's education. Courses that promote workforce development, flexibility in pathways to high school graduation and increased access to online courses strengthen public education in Texas. Transparency for the community on individual school performance ensures accountability and a parent's ability to be fully informed about their children's education.

"I fully support Chairman Taylor and his leadership in shaking up our education system to serve the needs of students," said Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. "His determination to turn around failing schools and open new pathways for learning is why I selected him to lead the Senate Education Committee. His leadership will help transform schools all across the state."

*Sen. Larry Taylor represents Senate District 11, comprised of parts of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 2012, Sen. Taylor served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Sen. Taylor is Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the Business & Commerce, Finance and Intergovernmental Relations Committees.*

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist11/dist11.htm>

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