

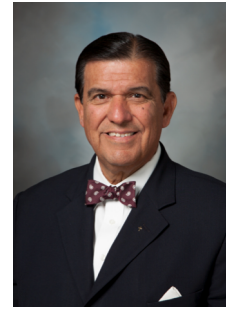


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January 18, 2013

## **Senator Lucio Appointed Vice-Chairman of Education**

AUSTIN - Today, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst announced Texas Senate Committee assignments for the 83rd Legislature. Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) has been appointed as the new Vice-Chair for the Senate Committee on Education. The Senator has also been reappointed to the Business and Commerce, State Affairs, and Finance committees.

Senator Lucio has issued the following statement in response:

"I want to sincerely thank Lt. Governor Dewhurst for appointing me to these important committees, which will shape the educational and financial prosperity of all Texans over the next biennium.

"I am especially grateful for my reappointment to the Senate Finance Committee and my appointment as Vice-Chair for the Senate Education Committee. This Session, our state faces a major challenge in ensuring our children's public schools are adequately funded. Through my service on these committees, it is my hope that we can work to restore the more than \$5 billion in cuts made to public education last Session. I am encouraged to see that this year's Senate base budget already includes an additional \$2.2 billion in funding to cover the estimated 85,000 more public school students enrolling over the next two years. I deeply respect our new Finance Chairman, Senator Tommy Williams, and I am confident that my colleagues and I will be able to produce a budget that puts Texas children first.

"As a former educator, I cherish my appointment as Vice Chair of Senate Education. I look forward to working with our new Chairman, Sen. Dan Patrick, and fellow committee members on issues important to Texas teachers and schoolchildren. This session I expect this committee will hear bills intended to improve public education accountability, children's nutrition, teacher training, and protections for children with special needs. It is indeed an honor to protect the sacred trust of future generations of young Texans.

"I am also very proud that I will return to the Business and Commerce, and State Affairs committees. The Business and Commerce Committee plays an important role in strengthening our state's economy. This Session, the State Affairs committee will hear legislation vital to protecting middle-class consumers and workers. I look forward to working with stakeholders from every corner of the state so that we might improve the quality of life for Texas families."

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