

Lucio Supports Teacher Raises

Austin, TX – Senator Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), offered public bi-partisan support for Governor Abbott’s proposal to increase teacher salaries for the 86th Legislature. Lucio is a co-author of Senate Bill 3 which provides for an annual salary allotment of \$5000 for every full-time teacher.

Bill Could Increase Teacher Pay by \$5,000*

BROWNSVILLE - Labeled as strategic priority number one, the Texas Education Agency is looking to address the need to recruit, support, and retain teachers. It is the most prominent proposal is Senate Bill 3. It would increase the pay for every teacher in the state.

Senator Eddie Lucio Jr., “We’re all working together to make sure that our teachers get at least a \$5,000 pay increase this coming year.”

The bill would entitle every school teacher \$5,000 more than their 2018-2019 salary. It will not prevent nor change additional merit-based raises already in place. If approved it would take effect on September 1, 2019. With changes expected in the 2019-2020 school year.

“We must provide incentives to put effective teachers in the schools and classrooms where they are needed the most.” Says Governor Abbott.

Senator Lucio says the bill has bipartisan support. He believes this bill has a good chance of passing through the senate. The Texas House leader also on board for the need of school finance reform. However, he has expressed disagreement with giving the raise to the teachers directly, instead giving it to the districts to manage at their discretion.

Lucio says, “I wish we could give teachers a pay raise every year of some kind, but this one is long and incoming and I’ll be very happy to see it happen.”

The senator also expressing that this is one of many reforms to address the need for Texas educators. Saying he’d like to also see more done for retired teachers.

For reference, CNBC reported** the top 5 highest paying states for high school teachers near or above \$75,000. That’s at least \$20,000 more than the Texas average salary of \$52,000. Public comment for Senate Bill 3 is expected on February 25.

School salary averages: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/dt17_211.60.asp

* Cuadros, Alfredo. "Bill Could Increase Teacher Pay by \$5,000." *KVEO*, 18 February 2019, <https://www.kveo.com/news/local-news/bill-could-increase-teacher-pay-by-5-000/1792018287>

** Hess, Abigail. “The 5 highest and lowest paying states for teachers in the US.” *CNBC*, 14 July 2017, <https://www.cbc.com/2017/07/14/the-5-highest-and-lowest-paying-states-for-teachers-in-the-us.html>

Follow SB 3: <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=SB3>