

## Legislative Update—May 22, 2009

### **House Bill 3 goes to Conference Committee**

HB 3, which includes some accountability for gifted education, is headed to a conference committee. That means the bill passed both the House and Senate in different versions, and a group of legislators will attempt to reach a compromise. The 10 legislators named to do so are:

Public Education Committee Chair, Rep. Rob Eissler, The Woodlands  
Public Education Committee Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Hochberg, Houston  
Rep. Jim Keffer, Eastland  
Rep. Mike Villarreal, San Antonio  
Rep. Harold Dutton, Houston  
Education Committee Chair, Sen. Florence Shapiro, Plano  
Education Committee Vice Chair, Sen. Dan Patrick, Houston  
Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan  
Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands  
Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio

If you are represented by one of these legislators, TAGT urges you to contact him or her to let them know the importance of this bill to the gifted community. Although state laws require identification of and services provided to gifted students, without any accountability, those words are empty.

### **House Bill 3646 likely headed to Conference Committee**

HB 3646 has also passed in the House and the Senate in different versions. HB 3646 is a school finance bill that would modestly increase the amount of money received by local school districts; it may also provide a modest increase in educators' salaries. It is possible that incentive money for gifted education (such as in HB 1692) may be added to the bill as legislators work on compromise language. Conference committee members have yet to be named.

### **How to Contact Your Representatives**

E-Mail address: [first.last@house.state.tx.us](mailto:first.last@house.state.tx.us) or [first.last@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:first.last@senate.state.tx.us)