



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN HELPS SCHOOL DISTRICTS

New Program To Help Schools License Their Bus Drivers

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) continues to support school districts amid changing standards for school bus drivers by encouraging them to participate in the Texas Department of Public Safety's Third-Party Skills Test (TPST) program. TPST allows school districts' the opportunity to test school employees at the district's convenience.

"The importance of public safety, especially for our school children, has never been more important than now," said Guillen "That is why we will not accept a one size fits all approach to the safety our kids."

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in July 2015, changed the requirements for the commercial driver's license and required all states to adopt new uniform testing standards for commercial vehicle drivers. The federal government approved these changes to improve highway safety, specifically among truck drivers. Unfortunately, these changes have affected school bus drivers since school busses must be classified as commercial vehicles in federal law.

In an effort to fight this issue, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has developed enhanced study materials for school bus drivers and the established the TPST program. Representative Ryan Guillen encourages school districts to become a TPST provider or partner with another school district that is a TPST provider.

"Texans have always shown resilience in the face of adversity, and I am confident we will continue that trend," said Guillen. "TPST authorizes schools to become third-party testers of school bus drivers which allows them to partner with DPS to take advantage of better training and the ability to test drivers at their own convenience."

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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