



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015

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REP. GUILLEN & SUPERINTENDENTS TALK EDUCATION

Region 2 Leaders Discuss Current Public Education Issues

AUSTIN - This past week, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) attended the monthly membership meeting of Education Service Center, Region 2 in Corpus Christi to provide a brief legislative wrap-up of the 84th Session to local superintendents, including representatives from McMullen and Kenedy counties.

"Given the pending lawsuit on school finance, the legislature still managed to pass some measures that will impact students, teachers and parents," remarked Guillen. "I appreciate these types of meetings where we can sit down with our local superintendents and talk about public education issues in our communities."

Among the bills that Representative Guillen discussed, were Senate Bill 1 and Proposition 1 (SJR 1). Proposition 1, is a proposed constitutional amendment that citizens will have an opportunity to vote on this November. The amendment would increase the homestead property tax exemption to \$25,000, and will save homeowners approximately \$125 annually. Senate Bill 1, co-sponsored by Representative Guillen, enables the property tax cut to be effective for the 2015 tax year, so homeowners will feel the impact of the tax cut immediately. Moreover, school districts will be held harmless for the revenue decrease from property tax collections. This legislation was part of a larger \$4 billion tax cut package that the legislature passed during the 84th session.

Representative Guillen and local superintendents also discussed other major bills, including increased funding to help high quality pre-K programs, additional funding for retired educator healthcare (TRS-Care), and removing dual-credit barriers for high school students.

"Though we didn't get to everything on the "To Do" list for public education, the legislature made some headway," Representative Guillen said, "and ongoing meetings with local community leaders will continue to give us fresh ideas on what needs to be accomplished in the years to come."

Rep. Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.