



EVERY TEXAN

Formerly Center for Public Policy Priorities

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 165

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As we fight the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and the pandemic continues to upend life across Texas, students are experiencing unprecedented disruptions to their education including the transition to digital classrooms, disruptions to personal and familial income, increased food and housing insecurity, and more limited access to libraries and student support offices. Additionally, students across Texas faced major disruptions to their school and living conditions resulting from the catastrophic winter storm.

These circumstances have left the most vulnerable Texas students in peril. During this critical moment, institutions, elected officials, and state leaders must collaborate on policy that will ensure Texas students can move through this crisis into a future of prosperity.

Every Texan supports equitable policies that assist students impacted through these crises. By prioritizing student needs, particularly for our most vulnerable students, we are investing in the economic recovery of Texas.

**Every Texan supports SB 165**, a bill that prevents students from being penalized for dropping additional courses during a disaster, because it provides Texas students the necessary flexibility to respond to the unprecedented challenges they are facing.

**Students should not continue to be penalized for circumstances beyond their control** and SB 165 is a common-sense solution that will allow students the necessary flexibility to adjust academically while they navigate this rapidly changing environment.