

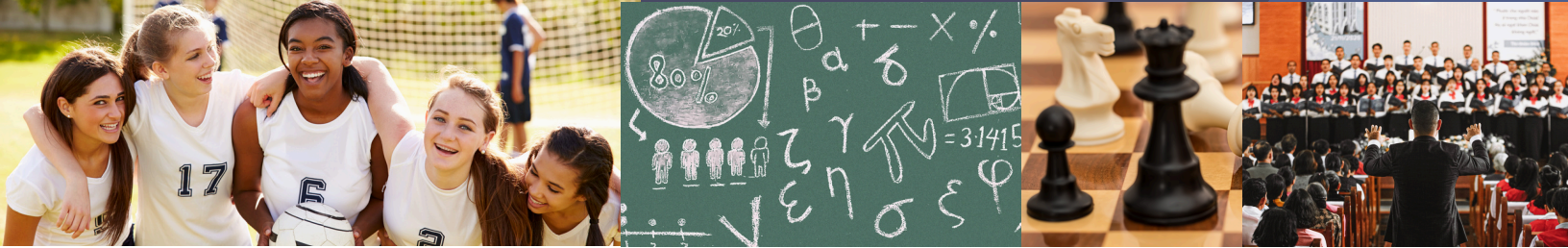
TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION AND UIL



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TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION AND UIL



SUMMARY: THSC UIL ASSISTANCE: Legislative Background

In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed HB 547, allowing local ISDs to vote to grant homeschool students access to UIL activities. Because school districts exercised autonomy in this

In 2023, HB 3708 added a financial incentive: districts that opt in receive a \$1,500 allotment per homeschool student, per UIL activity.

In 2025, with the passage of SB 401, the program is now opt-out rather than opt-in which means by default, homeschoolers now have access to UIL through their local district unless the school board votes to opt out. Additionally, if a district opts out, homeschoolers may participate in UIL through the next closest district. SB 401 expands access while still respecting local control.

Why UIL Equal Access Benefits School Districts

Equal access is a proven policy—adopted in 37 states over the past 50 years. Since 2021, various Texas districts have implemented it successfully. According to UIL's 2025 testimony, districts have reported zero issues with implementation.

Benefits for schools include:

- Additional funding (\$1,500 per homeschooler per activity)
- Stronger community engagement
- Enriched extracurricular programs
- Broader talent pool for teams and activities

UIL Equal Access supports both student opportunity and district growth.

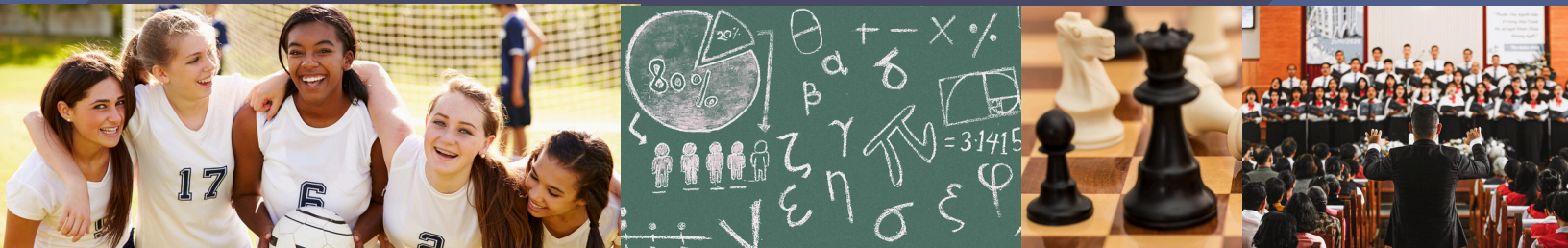
HB 3708 Is Bringing \$1500 Per Home School Student Per Activity To Our School District

Access to public school extracurricular activities for homeschool students is a well-established policy, implemented in 37 states over the past 50 years. In Texas, this access brings clear benefits:

- **TALENT:** With 8–10% of Texas students being homeschooled, UIL access expands the district's talent pool for both academic and athletic programs. If a district opts out, homeschoolers can join UIL in neighboring districts—so opting in helps retain local talent.
- **FINANCIAL INCENTIVE:** Under SB 401, schools receive \$1,500 per homeschool student, per activity.
- **COMMUNITY:** Extracurriculars foster connection. Including homeschoolers strengthens community ties by bringing together students from diverse backgrounds.
- **NATIONAL PRECEDENT:** 37 states already allow homeschoolers access to public school activities. Texas districts now have the chance to align with this national standard.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Homeschool families consistently cite extracurriculars as their top unmet need. Access to UIL gives students life-changing academic and athletic opportunities they might not otherwise have.

UIL Equal Access is a win for students, schools, and communities alike.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



IT MAY SEEM LIKE

to build momentum for UIL Equal Access, it's important to begin by speaking with the Athletic Director (AD) to explain the incentives outlined on pages 3–4, as they can help influence others.

Then, reach out to School Board members followed by testifying at School Board meetings to urge a vote in support of Equal Access.

TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS,

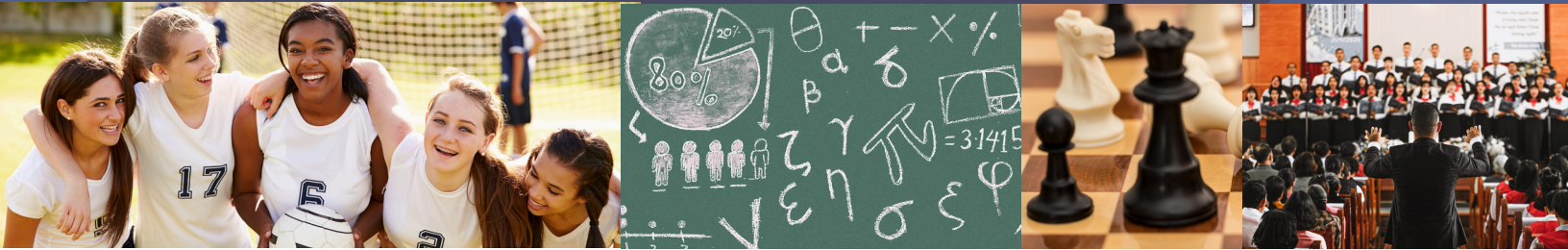
you may consider going straight to the Superintendent, assuming they can make a unilateral decision—but they cannot. While the Superintendent is a member of the School Board, any decision on UIL Equal Access requires a majority vote by the full Board.

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHO IS THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR?

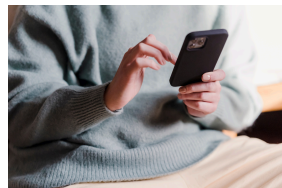
1. Find your school district by typing your city name into the “Find Address and Place” box. Schools in your district will appear automatically.
2. Scroll to find your school and its contact information.
3. Call the school and ask for the Athletic Director’s name.

Sample call scripts are on page 6 and can also be used when contacting School Board members.

I'VE REACHED OUT TO THE A.D. NOW WHAT?



Sometimes ADs are unavailable due to many competing commitments. If you are unable to connect with the AD, the next step is to begin reaching out to the School Board Members, also known as School Board Trustees.



1. Find your school district's website [here](#).
2. In the "Search" box, type the name of your city.
3. The city's schools will populate.
4. Scroll down to the school's ISD and click on details. There you will find the School Board Members and their contact information. *Samples of phone calls, voicemails, and emails are on pages 6-10.*

searchprod.tea.state.tx.us/TeaAskTest/Web/Forms/DistrictSearch.aspx

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

TEA Home | TEA District Locator | TEA Index A-Z | TEA Statistics

ASKED

Home Search by Quick District Lookup Reports and Directories Search RSDs Administrative Login Help

Quick District Lookup

To perform a search, enter the District Name, County Name, ESC Region Number (1-28), City, Zip Code or Status (Active/Inactive).

Select District

Search: Show entries

District	District Name	County	Region	City	Zip	Status	
220802	ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY (220-802) ARLINGTON	TARRANT COUNTY	11	ARLINGTON	76017	ACTIVE	Details
220901	ARLINGTON ISD (220-901) ARLINGTON	TARRANT COUNTY	11	ARLINGTON	76011	ACTIVE	Details
057819	JEAN RASSEAU ACADEMY (057-819) ARLINGTON	DALLAS COUNTY	10	ARLINGTON	76011	ACTIVE	Details
220808	METRO ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE (220-808) ARLINGTON	TARRANT COUNTY	11	ARLINGTON	76011	INACTIVE	Details
220817	NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARL (220-817) ARLINGTON	TARRANT COUNTY	11	ARLINGTON	76063	ACTIVE	Details

(Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries (Filtered from 1,712 total entries))

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 TEA Home | TEA District Locator | TEA Index A-Z | TEA Statistics

These step by step instructions are also available on our website: [THSC UIL Assistance](#). Scroll to the drop down: Ask Your School to Opt-In to UIL Access for Homeschoolers.


Sample First Voicemail to Athletic Director (and School Board Members)

Hello [insert name],

My name is [insert name] and I am a homeschool mom of 3. I am calling because I want to be sure you know about our school district potentially receiving additional funding with the vote to allow homeschoolers to participate in UIL activities.

In 2023, Governor Abbott signed HB 3708 into law which means when school districts allow UIL Equal Access, the school district will receive \$1500 per homeschool student, per activity. What's amazing is that our school district will receive close to \$4500 because I know other homeschool families who are interested in competing in UIL for our school district.

Can we talk more about this in person? Please call me back at [insert phone number]. I look forward to speaking with you soon. Thank you!



Immediately Send Follow Up Email & Send Page 3 As An Attachment.

Subject Line: \$1500 or More for UIL Equal Access

Dear [fill in the blanks],

My name is [insert name] and I just had a chance to leave you a voicemail. I am a homeschool parent and I currently have [number of children] interested in participating in UIL extracurricular activities. Did you know that when our School Board votes to allow UIL Equal Access, our school district will receive \$1500 per homeschool student, per activity?

In 2023, Governor Abbott signed [HB 3708](#) into law, so now when school districts opt in to allow UIL Equal Access, the school district will receive \$1500 per homeschool student, per activity. In reality, our school district will receive more than \$1500 because I know other homeschool families who are interested in participating in UIL. We could potentially be looking at our school district receiving close to \$4500.

Let's not decline this financial incentive. I don't want to leave money on the table. Can we set up a meeting so we can increase our school district's funding by helping our school board to vote YES to allow UIL Equal Access?

I look forward to hearing from you. I will reach back out next week. I've attached 2 documents that outline the financial benefits of UIL Equal Access. Can't wait to connect.

Sincerely,
[Insert Name]

We've reached out to the AD and School Board Trustees. Now what?

Now, it's time to attend your District's School Board Meetings.



Texas law requires school districts to post on their websites the name, email address, and term of office for each member of their boards of trustees. School Districts must also post when School Board Meetings are held. Visit your district's website and see when School Board Meetings are posted.

THIS IS KEY:



1. Reach out to other homeschool families in your area and ask them to attend the School Board Meeting with you.
2. In order to speak (also called testify), you must either show up early and sign up to speak or sign up online before the meeting commences.
3. The order of the meeting will allow for public testimonies.
4. Each testimony is 2 minutes.
5. Each parent and student should take student and parent samples to read to the Superintendent and Board Members. Additionally, one person should take pages 3 and 4 from this packet to distribute to the School Board Members. Student and Parent Samples to read at the School Board Meetings are on pages 13-15.



After the Board Meeting, send a follow up email to each Board Member. *Sample of such email is on page 16 of this packet.*

Keep in mind: the School Board Members do not vote on items heard in a School Board Meeting unless the item is already a part of the agenda for the meeting. Non-agenda items do not receive votes. This is why a portion of the sample testimony includes asking the Board to include it in the agenda item for the next School Board Meeting. The Trustees only vote on an item when it is a part of the agenda.



Sample Student Testimony

Good Evening Superintendent and School Board Members,

My name is Riley Jones. I am a 14-year-old homeschooled student with a passion for volleyball which is why I am here today speaking. I would like to ask each of you to vote in favor our school district allowing homeschoolers to participate in UIL activities.

Allowing homeschool participation not only provides me with the chance to contribute to a team and foster my athletic development, but when you all vote to allow UIL access for homeschool students, because of a law called HB 3708, our district will receive \$1500 per student, per activity, offering a compelling reason to discuss this behind closed doors and then place it as item for the next School Board Meeting.

It seems to me that when you all vote YES towards this opportunity, we all win. I get to play and the district gets paid. Who turns down a win-win? Don't leave money on the table. Please put UIL Homeschool Participation on the agenda for the next School Board Meeting and then please vote YES to allow homeschoolers like me to participate in UIL activities.

Thank you for considering this request.



Sample Student Testimony

Good Evening Superintendent and School Board Members,

My name is Jordan Travis Henson. I am an 11-year-old homeschooled student with a passion for STEM, namely Robotics and I would like to begin competing at the district level and I know I can do that with your vote to allow UIL participation for homeschool students.

If you're wondering why I don't simply enroll in one of our local public schools and take a Robotics class, it's because I have ADHD and dyslexia and I was severely struggling to keep up with my learning in all of the classes. In order to help me move away from always feeling defeated and depressed, my parents have chosen to homeschool me. I am doing significantly better, and my passion for Robotics has only increased and I'd love to bring noteworthy attention to our school district by not only competing in UIL STEM extracurricular activities, but winning.

I love winning and when each of you vote to allow UIL access for homeschool students, because of the law, HB 3708, our district will receive \$1500 when I begin competing in UIL STEM activities. It seems to me that when you all vote YES towards this opportunity, we all win. Please discuss this behind closed doors and then let it be on the agenda for the next School Board Meeting and then vote YES. Don't leave \$1500 on the table.

Thank you for considering this request.



Sample Parent Testimony

Superintendent and School Board Members,

My name is Tracy Jones and I am the proud parent of Riley Jones, a devoted 14-year-old homeschooled student who has a deep passion for volleyball. As Riley's parent, I have witnessed the dedication she brings to her sport and the positive impact it has on her personal development.

We are appealing to you to consider and approve the inclusion of homeschool students, like Riley, in UIL activities within our school district. Beyond the evident benefits children experience when they are on a team, such as teamwork and athletic growth, this opportunity holds significant financial advantages for the district, contributing \$1500 per participating homeschool student per activity. My daughter only wants to play one UIL activity, but can you imagine if you had 3 homeschoolers who tried out and made the cut; our school district would then receive \$4500.

We believe that embracing homeschool participation in UIL activities is not only a sound financial decision for the district but also a meaningful investment in the diverse educational needs of our children.

Let's not leave money on the table. In closing, please know - this appeal to you is not for you to put my daughter on your team; I'm asking you for to let her try out. I'm also asking for you to place this topic of discussion as an agenda item for the next School Board Meeting and then vote YES!

Don't leave money on the table.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and understanding of the broader perspectives involved in this matter.

Immediately Send Follow-Up Email After the School Board Meeting

Subject Line: Agenda Item for \$1500 or More for UIL Homeschool Participation

Dear [fill in the blanks],

My name is [insert name] and although we didn't meet in person last night, I had a chance to speak at the School Board Meeting along with 7 other people about our district opting in to allow UIL Equal Access. Thank you and the other Board Members for listening.

As requested in all our testimonies, please consider adding UIL Equal Access as an agenda item for the next School Board Meeting. As we reiterated last night, in 2023, Governor Abbott signed [HB 3708](#) into law, so now when school districts opt in to allow UIL Equal Access, the school district will receive \$1500 per homeschool student, per activity.

Thank you again for listening and considering. I've attached a document that outlines the financial benefits of UIL Equal Access. You received them last night, but I wanted to provide them for you again. I can't wait to connect.

Sincerely,
[Insert Name]

Ask your State Senator and State Representative to help your school district vote to allow UIL Homeschool Participation

Find Your Legislator and Discover Who Represents You

Asking your State Senator and State Representative to get involved can also be valuable since they have legislative authority and may have significant influence on the decision a School Board can make. The Senator or Representative cannot delegate the decisions a School Board makes; however, they can provide influence and a broader perspective to the Trustees.

Use [this link](#) to find your legislator and see who represents you in the Texas House and Texas Senate.


Page 18 is sample email that you can send to your Texas Senator and your Texas Representative.

Pages 3 and 4 are beneficial for you to drop off in person at your Legislator's District's Office. District Office information is provided using the link above.

If you can not drop off pages 3 and 4 in person, please include it as an attachment to the email from page 18.

Be ready to follow up with your Legislator in person or email to see if he or she has had a chance to preview the information you have dropped off or provided in an email. Reference the "follow up" email from pages 9 and 11.





Sample Email to Your Legislator

Dear Representative [insert name] or Dear Senator [insert name],

First and foremost, thank you so much for your service to our community! As we are rapidly approaching August and the beginning of the new school year, I wanted to take a moment to reach out to you regarding UIL Equal Access.

As you know, in 2021, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 547 giving local independent school districts (ISD) in Texas the ability to vote to allow homeschoolers access to UIL activities at their local public school.

In 2023, the Texas Legislature passed HB 3708 which means for each school district that chooses to allow homeschool access to UIL, the school will receive a \$1500 funding allotment per child, per activity in which they participate.

We need your help! Will you please help me spread the news of this new financial incentive to our school district so they will take advantage of this financial opportunity.

Let's encourage our School Board to place UIL Equal Access as an agenda item for the next School Board and let's encourage them to vote YES.

August 1 is the deadline for schools to decide whether or not to allow homeschool participation if any are to participate in varsity athletics. Schools may still opt-in after this; however, schools that opt-in after August 1, homeschool students will only be eligible for academic, music, and sub-varsity athletic activities for that school year.

Thank you for your support in this!

Sincerely,
[Insert Name]

We've reached out to the AD, School Board Trustees, and our Legislators. Now What?

STAY IN THE RACE



1. Keep reaching out to the AD and Trustees. Visit them in person and pursue if there is any and the reason for the opposition to UIL Equal Access.
2. Keep speaking at School Board Meetings.
3. Keep recruiting homeschool families to show up at the meetings and speak as well.
4. Keep pursuing UIL Equal Access for your family and generations to come.



Remember "Rome Wasn't Built in a Day"
**but it was built! You can be a part of the reason for why
your school district votes to allow homeschoolers to
participate in UIL!**