Texas Artificial Intelligence Policy Landscape
Key Updates from the 89th Legislative Session

EDUCATE TEXAS
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

OVERVIEW

The 89th Texas Legislative Session marked the state's first coordinated effort to establish standards for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) across public agencies, including implications for public school systems. While most provisions take effect in 2025–26, the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the Governor's Office have already begun shaping guidance and governance structures that will inform how AI is integrated statewide.

NOTABLE TEXAS BILLS

BILL	SUMMARY	EFFECTIVE DATE
HB 149	Establishes a statewide AI governance framework, directs DIR to develop rules aligned with the NIST AI Risk Management Framework, and prohibits harmful AI uses such as social scoring, biometric identification without consent, and discriminatory applications.	Jan. 1, 2026
SB 1964	Creates a regulatory framework for government use of AI, including disclosure requirements for public-facing AI systems and standardized notices for public interaction.	Sept. 1, 2025
HB 3512	Requires DIR to certify at least five AI training programs for state and local government employees. School district cybersecurity coordinators must complete annual AI training; additional staff as determined locally.	Sept. 1, 2025
HB 2818	Establishes a new AI Division within DIR to support agencies and public partners—including school districts—on responsible use of generative AI.	Sept. 1, 2025

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TEXAS AI POLICY

DIR AI USER GROUP

DIR has launched a statewide forum for public-sector AI collaboration, designed to share lessons, coordinate training, and prepare entities for compliance once rulemaking begins. Scan QR code for additional information.

TEXAS AI ADVISORY BOARD

On Nov. 7, Governor Abbott appointed eight members to this new advisory board to guide statewide AI policy and coordination across agencies. The board will advise on transparency, security, and consistent statewide adoption of AI systems

TEXAS DRAFT AI CODE OF ETHICS (NOVEMBER 2025)

A NEW FOUNDATION FOR STATEWIDE AI GOVERNANCE

In November 2025, the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) released a draft AI Code of Ethics that establishes the foundational values and expectations for the use of artificial intelligence across state and local government. While not yet finalized, the draft signals the principles that will guide the state's rulemaking under HB 149 (Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act) and future DIR standards.

The draft Code of Ethics outlines seven core principles to use AI safely, transparently, and equitably, aligning with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework, the emerging national standard for responsible AI.

SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR AI USE

HUMAN OVERSIGHT — AI systems should support—not replace—human judgment. Critical decisions must retain meaningful human review.

FAIRNESS — AI must be developed and used in ways that avoid discriminatory impacts on individuals or groups.

ACCURACY — AI outputs should meet high standards for reliability and be regularly evaluated for correctness and performance.

REDRESS — Individuals affected by AI-driven decisions should have accessible pathways to correct errors, challenge outcomes, or request assistance.

TRANSPARENCY — Texas residents should know when they are interacting with an AI system, and agencies must clearly disclose AI-enabled processes or decision tools.

PRIVACY — AI systems must protect personal information and follow all applicable data-protection laws and practices.

SECURITY — AI systems must be safeguarded against unauthorized access, manipulation, and cybersecurity threats.