

FORT WORTH ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature

The Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees has identified priorities for the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature that address school safety and support student learning.



SCHOOL SAFETY

- » Increased funding of the School Safety Allotment and local flexibility to ensure districts can adequately meet student and staff safety needs.
- » Providing appropriate ongoing funding for identification, services and supports for students with mental health needs.
- » Allowing school districts flexibility to determine how safety and mental health funds are spent in order to best meet local needs.



PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

- » Adjusting the basic allotment for inflation OR raising the basic allotment by \$200 per student to accommodate the rising staffing and operational costs.
- » Funding schools based on enrollment instead of average daily attendance (ADA) to better reflect how public schools are staffed and operated.
- » Full funding for universal pre-K to accelerate access to research-based early childhood learning.
- » Improving access to affordable health insurance for public school employees by increasing the state monthly contribution per employee to TRS Active Care.
- » The enactment of a substantial and meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Teacher Retirement System retirees.



PANDEMIC LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY

- » Increasing the Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment to ensure students have access to high-quality materials and technology devices.
- » Increasing special education funding to fill critical positions and cover cost of diagnostics.
- » Additional funding to support House Bill 4545 requirements, extended learning opportunities and wraparound services for students once ESSER III funds end.



ACCOUNTABILITY

- » The development of an assessment system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers.
- » Reforming the accountability system to appropriately measure all factors that influence student performance and school ratings, including locally controlled flexible accountability measures.
- » Applying equal accountability and financial transparency standards for charter and traditional public schools.



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