

FBISD SHAC Legislative Priorities 2023

1. WHEREAS The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC model) is Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s framework for addressing health in schools;

WHEREAS the WSCC model is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school;

WHEREAS the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices are well-documented;

THEREFORE the FBISD SHAC supports Texas' Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model for coordinated school health and supports measures that strengthen Local Education Agencies' (LEA) implementation of policies and practices consistent with this approach.

In addition, the FBISD SHAC supports measures that enhance local communities' ability to inform local decision-making of LEAs through the formation or support of formal advisory groups such as SHACs.

2. WHEREAS the CDC shows that a healthy active child is more likely to be successful in school and have healthy habits their entire life;

WHEREAS the CDC includes physical inactivity as one of the "six types of health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability and social problems in the United States";

WHEREAS the CDC shows that higher physical activity and physical fitness levels are associated with improved cognitive performance (e.g. concentration, memory) among students;

WHEREAS the CDC shows that students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, and classroom behaviors (e.g., on-task behavior);

WHEREAS Action Based Learning recognizes 75% of learners are kinesthetic or tactile learners and anchors academic content across subjects that improves learning readiness and behavior;

THEREFORE the FBISD SHAC supports measures encouraging physical fitness and Action Based Learning, including effective use of fitness assessments.

3. WHEREAS the Texas School Mental Health (TSMH) states that a Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) are most effective when applied universally, such as in public school;

WHEREAS TSMH states that "when we build a strong foundation of mental health promotion and prevention, we reduce the need for targeted and intensive services";

THEREFORE the FBISD SHAC supports funding for a multi-tiered system of mental and behavioral health support that fosters safe and healthy school environments for students, educators and staff.

4. WHEREAS the annual federal adjustment increase for school lunches is higher this year only due to the temporary funding authorized under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022;

WHEREAS these additional reimbursement amounts shall only be available for the school year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023;

WHEREAS the CDC finds that 11 million children in the United States live in food insecure homes;

WHEREAS 47.8% of Fort Bend ISD students are economically disadvantaged for the year 2021-22 in the Texas Academic Performance Report;

WHEREAS in 2020 Fort Bend County had 33,050 (15.2%) children living in food insecure homes, according to the County Health Rankings website;

THEREFORE the FBISD SHAC supports measures to ensure that all children receive access to healthy school meals, including breakfast and lunch to reduce food insecurity and hunger.

5. WHEREAS the TEA finds that one in six school-aged youth experiences impairments in life functioning, including impacts on academic achievement, due to mental illness;

WHEREAS Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) calls upon the Texas Legislature to provide additional support and resources from the mental health field, whether district-based or within collaborative networks, to better increase access to research-based proactive and crisis mental health services for students, their caregivers, educators, and staff while reducing the burden on educators and districts to identify or resolve student mental health needs with assistance and collaboration from mental health providers;

WHEREAS TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to improve access to evidence-based mental health services and mental health professionals either within a district or a collaborative network, while at the same time reducing the burden on educators or districts to identify and solve student mental health issues;

WHEREAS recognizing the importance of reaching students before they are in a mental health crisis, the Texas Legislature also passed comprehensive student mental health legislation in 2019 in SB11;

WHEREAS mental health needs in schools have not been promised a long-term source of funding according to Texas Cares for Children;

THEREFORE the FBISD SHAC supports improved, continual, reliable funding for access to evidence-based mental health services.