

**FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: 89TH LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) Board of Trustees is committed to inspire and equip all students to pursue futures beyond what they can imagine;

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Texas Education Code §4.001);

WHEREAS, the 89th Legislative Session of the Texas State Legislature will convene on January 14, 2025 considering legislation impacting various areas of our State, including the provision of public education;

WHEREAS, key elements of school funding, such as the basic allotment, special education funding weights, the Fast Growth allotment, the New Instructional Facilities allotment, GT allotment, School Safety allotment, and pre-Kindergarten funding have not increased in over five years and have not kept pace with inflation, the actual cost to provide services, and fail to adequately fund Texas public school districts;

WHEREAS, per-student funding in Texas has declined over the past decade, and continues to decline;

WHEREAS, although the Texas Legislature budgeted \$3.99 billion in the 88th Legislative Session for public education, that money has not been allocated for use by public schools;

WHEREAS, there is a \$2.3 billion shortfall in funding for special education in Texas and the Texas Legislature has failed to allocate funds to close this shortfall;

WHEREAS, House Bill 114 (88th Regular Session) established a mandatory placement in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for any public school student who possesses, uses, sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette (vape);

WHEREAS, in FBISD, a campus-based substance abuse education program, First Offense RISE Response (FORR), was initiated to serve as a mandatory Disciplinary

Alternative Education Program (DAEP) placement for first time substance related offenses. Repeated substance abuse violations deem a student ineligible for FORR and mandates a DAEP placement at the MR Wood Center for Learning. During the 2023-2024 school year, there were 763 vaping offenses with 720 students approved for the FORR program;

WHEREAS, protecting sensitive student information such as a social security number is a critical requirement of state and federal law, yet a student's social security number continues to be required by the Texas Education Agency despite the availability of a reasonable alternative (Texas Student Data System Student Unique Identification number);

WHEREAS, sections 45.003 of the Texas Education Code and 26.08 of the Texas Tax Code mandate specific ballot language, without exception, in the event of a school district bond election or voter approval tax rate election, and such ballot language is often misleading, unclear, or inaccurate; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3033 of the 88th Legislative Session amended the Public Information Act to effectively require public school districts to consider any days the District is not in session, outside official state and federal holidays or ten designated non-business days, as business days for purposes of compliance with Public Information Act deadlines; for the 2024-25 school year, this amounts to 15 days in which the District is closed, yet public information timelines are not tolled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fort Bend Independent School District Board of Trustees calls upon the Texas State Legislature to substantially increase the basic allotment for public education to account for the impact inflation has had on school district budgets since 2019;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to establish a mechanism for automatic, inflation-adjusted increases to the basic allotment every biennium to keep up with the rate of inflation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to take immediate and decisive action to fully fund special education services in FBISD and across the state by adjusting special education funding weights to ensure districts receive funding proportionate to the intensity of services received by students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to fund the Fast Growth, New Instructional Facilities, and GT allotments at a level that avoids the need to prorate the allocation as more districts qualify;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to increase the school safety allotment to provide adequate funding to meet the mandate of licensed peace officers on all campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Texas State Legislature to amend House Bill 114 (88th Regular Session) mandating DAEP placement for vaping/e-cigarettes and allow local control of student disciplinary consequences for vaping by elected Texas school boards that have implemented alternative appropriate disciplinary measures and programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to mandate TEA cease use of a student's social security number and, alternatively use the Texas Student Data System (TSDS) Student Unique Identification (UID) number;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to revise required ballot language for Texas school district bond and voter-approved tax ratification propositions to provide for honest and accurate descriptions of the measure(s);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon the Legislature to amend the Public Information Act and allow public school districts to increase the number of nonbusiness days from 10 to a number sufficient to match the nonbusiness days on the ISD's Board adopted instructional calendar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Texas, the Texas Commissioner of Education, and all members of the Texas Legislature to advocate for the necessary support of Texas public schools.

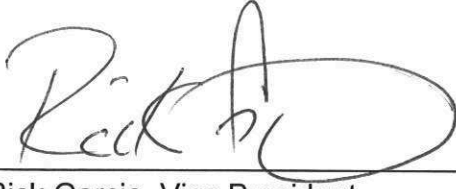
ADOPTED THIS 22ND DAY OF JULY 2024

FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Kristin K. Tassin, President
Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



Rick Garcia, Vice President
Board of Trustees



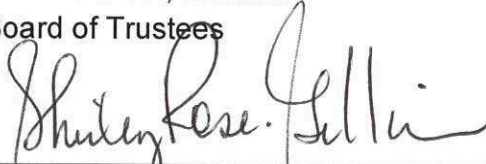
David Hamilton, Secretary
Board of Trustees



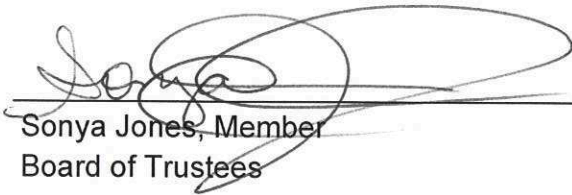
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Board of Trustees



Adam Schoof, Member
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