

## RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### Making School Finance a Legislative Priority

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Supreme Court, despite recognizing the brokenness of the State's system of financing public education, declined to find the system unconstitutional and concluded it was up to the state legislature to fix the many deficits and inequities that plague the school finance system;

**WHEREAS**, during the 85th Legislative Session and the First Special Session, the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate both failed to vote on a bill that would have provided adequate state funding for local school districts after vouchers were added to the final version of the bill;

**WHEREAS**, FBISD taxpayers will continue to shoulder more of the burden for educating children in 2018-19 as the State share of funding will drop down to 30.7% from 32.2% due to the flawed state funding formula, and the reduction in the share of State funding is occurring even as the District adds students, property values are increasing, and the District has reduced the operating budget;

**WHEREAS**, Fort Bend ISD opened one new school in 2018-19 and has adopted a budget that will utilize \$12 million in local reserves to close the gap created by the Legislature's failure to act on behalf of public education.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to act on behalf of the District's 76,000 students and 11,000 employees to leave education money created by property value growth statewide in education; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that there be choice in how education monies are spent and allow local boards of trustees to allocate funding in the appropriate manner based on the unique needs of their community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature not pass additional unfunded mandates. If the Legislature legislates a change or program and does not provide funding for it, then districts should not be held accountable for compliance of the mandate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Fort Bend ISD supports the abolishment of state testing and instead use national tests and statistical analysis to measure student progress; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should there be extra dollars, they should be redistributed back to the districts equitably and with recognition of cost differences between regions and districts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this priority begins within the leadership of the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees and together, we share one unified message to all involved:

*We believe all children can learn, we have high expectations for each of the students we serve, we want to use all resources to make the difference in the lives of each child, the future of Texas depends on educating our growing enrollment with diverse needs, and the public schools are charged by the Texas Constitution with this great mission for Texas.*

