



Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees 2017 Legislative Priorities

"Providing Practical Solutions to Support Public Students"

"It is very important that the community hears the voice of this Board loud and clear, which is unanimous in the adoption of five legislative resolutions," said Kristin Tassin, Board President. "I am grateful to the Board members for supporting each of these legislative priorities and including practical solutions for our legislators to support in the 2017 Legislative Session."



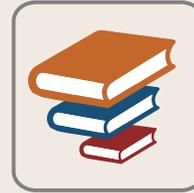
Reform and Adequately Fund the Texas School Finance System



Support Uniformed Standards and Requirements for All State Funded School Systems



Overhaul State Accountability and Assessment Systems



Streamline the TEKS



Fund Senate Bill 507
(cameras in special education classrooms)

PRIORITY 2:

Make Constitutional Support of Public Schools a Legislative Priority

In simple terms, the traditional voucher plan, tax credits or education savings accounts (ESAs) would divert public tax dollars to private entities, homeschool students or parents with little or no financial accountability to the state, taxpayers or local communities and exemption from state and federal accountability requirements .

SOLUTION:

- Oppose traditional vouchers, tax credit scholarships, ESAs and other programs that divert tax dollars away from 90 percent of the Texas students who attend public schools – more than five million.
- Ensure the quality of virtual school options by limiting the expansion to only high-quality virtual school providers.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- Texas Public School Mission: to ensure that all Texas children have access to 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).
- Allocate Texas resources efficiently to meet the needs of more than five million public school students; don't divert public education funding to private entities exempt from state accountability standards.



RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Making Constitutional Support of Public Schools a Legislative Priority

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to 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 Lieutenant Governor of Texas gave the Senate Education Committee an interim charge to “study the implementation of school choice in other states, including the impact on student performance and district budgets, to determine the best school choice plan to serve Texas students.”

WHEREAS, the traditional voucher plan, tax credits or education savings accounts (ESAs) would divert public tax dollars to private entities or homeschool students with little or no financial accountability to the state, taxpayers or local communities; with exemption from state and federal accountability requirements; and are free from the burden of many state and federal regulations and mandates;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to uphold their constitutional “duty . . . to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools” and focus their efforts on supporting the public schools, which, by their own laws, have been created to be available to and accessible by all children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators oppose traditional vouchers, tax credit scholarships, ESAs and other programs that divert tax dollars away from the more than 90 percent of the students in public education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators ensure the quality of virtual school options for students by limiting the expansion to only high quality virtual school providers;

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 a 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.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 17th day of October, 2016.