



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 3:

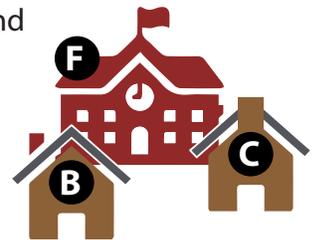
Make Accountability and Assessment a Legislative Priority

The purpose of the current state accountability system is not clearly defined. The purpose should be to provide meaningful assessments with actionable information to improve all students' postsecondary readiness, close gaps in readiness, and sustain continuous system improvement.



SOLUTION:

- Align the state and federal accountability systems to eliminate confusion, and ensure transparency at the campus/district levels.
- Streamline state academic assessments to federal requirements: Reading/English Language Arts and Math in grades 3-8; and Science in specified grades.
- Ensure adequate resources (time, funding, staffing levels) to support full implementation of HB 5 to achieve college readiness goals.
- Restore meaningfulness and utility of state-administered accountability systems by opposing A-F letter grades as campus and district ratings.
- Develop reasonable assessment options that are sensitive to diversity, special education, accelerated learners, English Language Learners (ELL).



IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- A comprehensive meaningful accountability system needs to look beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to ensure ratings reflect overall student performance at campus and district levels, as well as measure what each community deems important in promoting college and career readiness.

RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Making Accountability and Assessment a Legislative Priority

WHEREAS, the purpose of the current state accountability system is not clearly defined and the current assessment system is overly burdensome on students and teachers and does not effectively prepare students for post-secondary education or careers;

WHEREAS, studies show and districts experience the negative effects of excessive high stakes testing on students, and in addition, the test-driven curriculum does not allow for creativity and depth of learning in our classrooms, depriving students of a diverse and enriched educational experience;

WHEREAS, a high percentage of Texas students are graduating from high school needing remediation in core subjects such as math and English;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to overhaul the current accountability and assessment system in Texas to align with federal requirements and reduce the number of high stakes tests students are required to take; limit testing to readiness standards to allow for more focus on deeper student outcomes and content mastery; and ensure college and career readiness by including post-secondary readiness assessments to the indicators of the State's accountability system in Domain IV;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators align the state and federal accountability systems to eliminate confusion and ensure transparency at the campus and district levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators streamline state academic assessments to what is federally required: Reading/English language Arts and Math in grades 3-8; and Science in the specified grade spans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators ensure adequate resources (time, funding, staffing levels) to support full implementation of House Bill 5 to achieve college readiness goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators restore meaningfulness and utility of state administered accountability systems by opposing A-F letter grades as campus and district ratings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators develop reasonable assessment options that are sensitive to diversity, special education, accelerated learners, English language learners (ELL), and others that are critical to meet the needs of all students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators include post-secondary readiness assessments such as ACT, SAT, AP, IB, Aspire, etc., to the indicators of the State's accountability system in Domain IV;

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, by the Board of Trustees.