



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 4:

Streamline the TEKS

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards that ensure all state-mandated content standards for a particular grade level are currently too broad and need to be streamlined and better aligned with college readiness standards.

SOLUTION:

- Require the Texas Education Agency to conduct a comprehensive study of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Streamline the content and scope of the TEKS of each foundation curriculum subject that our teachers and students must cover with emphasis on college readiness standards at secondary levels.
- Provide aligned support and training for all, including educator professional development, access to instructional resources, reducing the number of TEKS and limiting testing to readiness standards.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- Streamlining the TEKS to align with college readiness standards will ensure all content standard are taught in a single school year; with less homework!

RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Making Streamlining the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) a Legislative Priority

WHEREAS, The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards that ensure all state-mandated content standards for a particular grade level are currently too broad and need to be streamlined and better aligned with college readiness standards;

WHEREAS, students and teachers are overworked due to the extreme number of curriculum standards required to be taught in a school year, and the volume of standards necessitates a fast pace in the classroom causing many students to fall behind without hope of gaining the foundational knowledge required to be proficient in the core subjects and ready for post-secondary education and careers;

WHEREAS, streamlining the TEKS curriculum standards to better align with college readiness standards will ensure all state-mandated content standards for a particular grade level can be reasonably expected to be taught in a single school year without inundating students and teachers with unreasonable homework assignments and causing students who cannot keep up with the pacing to be left behind;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to streamline the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards to align with college readiness standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators require the Texas Education Agency to conduct a comprehensive study of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to ensure a multifaceted approach to the written and taught curriculum;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators streamline the content and scope of the TEKS of each foundation curriculum subject that our teachers and students must cover with emphasis on college readiness standards at secondary levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state legislators provide aligned support and training for all, including educator professional development, access to instructional resources, reducing the number of TEKS and limiting testing to readiness standards;

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.