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FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

16431 Lexington Blvd. | Sugar Land, Texas 77479 | (281) 634-1000 | www.fortbendisd.com



**LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

**FOR THE 89TH SESSION OF
THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**



The **Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees** identified legislative priorities for the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature.

We ask lawmakers to consider these recommendations:

1 SCHOOL FUNDING

Special Education Funding

Ensure school districts receive adequate funding to serve students who have the need for high intensity and specialty services in Special Education.

Did you know? FBISD spends \$30M more than it receives in SPED funding. The Texas Legislature should adjust funding to better account for the additional costs of serving our most vulnerable students.

PreK Funding

Fully fund PreK students at a full-day Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Currently PreK students do not qualify for full-day ADA.

Did you know? Although PreK students attend a full-day program, in the State of Texas, they only generate half the average daily attendance funds. School districts have the option to use the Early Education Allotment to supplement program funding. The allotment is generated by the daily attendance of educational disadvantaged and emergent bilingual students in grades kindergarten through third grade.

Basic Allotment

Adjust the basic allotment with an automatic factor for inflation so legislative action is not required to keep up with the rate of inflation.

Did you know? The basic allotment of \$6,160 has not changed since 2019. The rate of inflation since then has increased by more than 23%.

Fast Growth, New Instructional Facilities, and GT Allotments

Fund these allotments at a level that avoids the need to prorate the allocation as more districts qualify.

2 SAFETY & PRIVACY IN SCHOOLS

School Safety Allotment

Adjust the school safety allotment to provide adequate funding for armed personnel on all campuses.

Did you know? House Bill 3 passed in the last legislative session included a requirement to have armed personnel at every campus, but the State did not provide school districts with enough funding to fulfill the mandate. FBISD is using VATRE money to contract with private security companies.

Mandatory Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) For Vaping

Repeal House Bill 114 (88th Regular Session) regarding mandatory DAEP placement for vaping/e-cigarettes.

Did you know? House Bill 114 does not allow local control of student disciplinary consequences for vaping by Texas school boards. FBISD has the Resilience, Intervention, Support and Empowerment (RISE) program. Last year FBISD had 763 first-time student vaping offenses and 720 of them would have benefitted from the RISE program.

Protect Student Identity

Eliminate the requirement of school districts to submit students' social security numbers in Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

Did you know? Currently school districts use a student's social security number for data collection. Opting for a unique student identification (ID) number would increase the security of student information.

3 COMMUNITY TRANSPARENCY

Ballot Language Clarity

Revise required ballot language for ISD bond and voter-approved tax ratification propositions to provide for honest and accurate descriptions of the measure.

Did you know? State law requires all bond and tax rate election (TRE) ballots to include the language, "This is a property tax increase," even when the district is not changing the tax rate.

Public Information Act, Nonbusiness Days

Revise the Public Information Act to 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 instructional calendar as adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Did you know? Currently school districts are expected to respond to public information requests during school breaks such as summer vacation, winter holidays, and spring break, when there are fewer staff available to process requests. For the 2024-25 academic calendar, after accounting for designated holidays and 10 non-business days approved by the Board, there are still 16 nonbusiness days where district offices are closed.

FBISD AT A GLANCE

83

Campuses

25

Title I Schools

ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY

79,000+ STUDENTS

28% Black/African American

27% Asian

27% Hispanic

13% White

5% Other

Largest employer in Fort Bend County with
12,900+ EMPLOYEES

The **\$6,160 BASIC ALLOTMENT** has stayed flat since 2019, while inflation rose over 23%.

50% of our students are economically-disadvantaged

5,494

GT Students

2,168

Pre-K Enrollment

SERVING OVER **15,000**

ESL, Bilingual and Alternative Language Program Students

Percentage of SPED students enrolled in Fort Bend ISD each school year

