

FBISD

# Why the LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES matter

FOR THE 89TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE



*FBISD, like many other school districts, is facing significant challenges and falling behind due to the impact of record-high inflation and stagnation in state funding.*

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEED ADEQUATE FUNDING TO EDUCATE STUDENTS

### Cover the Funding Shortage for Special Education



- ★ FBISD spends \$30M more than it receives in SPED funding annually.
- ★ The Special Ed population in FBISD has more than doubled over the last 10 years.
- ★ 16% of students in FBISD qualify for special education services.

### Allocate Sufficient Funding to Deliver the Pre-K Services Mandated by the State



- ★ Texas state law requires public school districts to offer free, full-day pre-K programs to eligible 4-year-olds.
- ★ PreK students in Texas only generate half of the average daily attendance funds, even though they attend full-day programs.
- ★ FBISD supplements the PreK funding deficit by using the Early Education Allotment.

### Increase the Basic Allotment to the Level Needed to Address Inflation



- ★ The Basic Allotment – the core unit of funding for public education - of \$6,160 per student has not changed since 2019.
- ★ Inflation rates have increased over 23% over the past decade.

### Allot Funding for Fast Growth, New Instructional Facilities, GT Allotments



- ★ These allotments allow the district to meet the needs of their community and provide services to students.
- ★ In 2021, the State reinstated the GT Allotment, but at a much lower amount.
- ★ Local taxpayer funds are used to cover the funding shortfall.



## SAFETY AND PRIVACY IN SCHOOLS MATTER

The safety and security of our community is a top priority in Fort Bend ISD. School districts need additional funding to fulfill state mandates.

### Adjust the School Safety Allotment to Adequately Fund Mandates



- ★ House Bill 3, placed mandates on school districts to provide one armed personnel on each campus. State funding did not fully fund these new requirements.
- ★ FBISD passed a VATRE to acquire \$2.5M annually to fund school safety measures.
- ★ Support Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1 as written, which will provide school districts with additional funding for safety and security measures.

### Allow ISDs to Determine Their Disciplinary Actions for Vaping



- ★ Texas House Bill 114 requires ISDs to punish students caught vaping with mandatory DAEP placement, removing them from the traditional classroom setting.
- ★ FBISD adopted R.I.S.E., a curriculum-based, social and resilience skill program designed to teach leadership, health, self-image, and substance avoidance.
- ★ In 2023-2024, 763 students had first-time vaping offenses.

### Eliminate Student Social Security Numbers in Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)



- ★ Texas Local Education Agencies (LEA) issue a StudentID (E0001) which is the student's social security number.
- ★ Removing social security numbers from PEIMS will protect student identity from unauthorized access, data breaches, and or accidental exposure.
- ★ FBISD believes that issuing a state-approved alternative identification number is a safer way to identify students.

## COMMUNICATION AND CLARITY LEADS TO COMMUNITY TRANSPARENCY

### Revise Ballot Language Requirements for Voter-approved ISD Propositions



- ★ Clarity in the ballot language for ISD bond and voter-approved tax ratification propositions would provide an honest and accurate descriptions of the measure.

### Revise the Public Information Act to Account for FBISD Nonbusiness Days



- ★ 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.

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