

Legislative Priorities

FOR THE 86th SESSION OF THE
TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The district will pursue the SBISD T-2-4 goal by increasing the number of students who complete a technical certificate, military training, or a two-year degree or four-year degree from 44% to 72% by 2022.

Adopted by the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees on September 24, 2018

FINANCE

Reform the current funding system, which is inadequate to meet state and community expectations. SBISD advocates the following:

- Change the recapture system, which the state uses to reduce its share of public education funding, ensuring that recaptured local school tax dollars are used to meet student needs:
- At a minimum, freeze recapture at current levels and phase in additional recapture relief over time.
- Keep all school tax dollars from property value growth in public education, and do not use revenue increases generated by local property valuation growth to lower the State's share of education funding.
- Return local taxing authority to locally elected officials.
 - Allow locally elected School Boards full discretion to set the maintenance and operations tax rate.
 - For the past 12 years (2006-2018), local Boards have had only 4 cents ("goldenpennies") at their discretion to raise local tax revenue: Move a minimum of 8 cents of the remaining 13 cents to local Board discretion.
 - Eliminate recapture on any new tax revenue generated.
- Increase the equalized wealth level per student in order to recognize property value increases across the state.
- Increase the multiplier for bilingual and economically disadvantaged students in order to support the necessary costs of educating students.
- Fund dual language and dyslexic programs.
- Increase the multiplier for CTE for grades 6-12.
- Reinstate the transportation allotment for Chapter 41 districts.
- Tie school funding to inflation so the State shares in its responsibility to fund basic educational programs.
- Do NOT tie education funding to state-mandated or alternative assessment results.
- Mandate that all state government entities report how education funds are allocated using consistent metrics (such as WADA), breaking out federal and I&S funds separately from Texas state funding.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates.
- Revise HB 1882 from 85th Legislative Session to allow funding for District/Charter partnerships such as the SKY Partnership (a truly collaborative partnership is between a school district and an open enrollment charter school).

SCHOOL SAFETY

Provide full and sustained funding for any new safety mandates for ISDs.

LOCAL CONTROL

SBISD advocates the following:

- Protect the local control provided to Boards of Trustees under Districts of Innovation in HB 1842 so that districts can fully implement their local innovation plans.
- Continue to invest in HB 5 by allowing districts time to implement it successfully without imposing additional requirements.
- Seek maximum State and local flexibility in negotiated rulemaking for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), especially with regard to Title funds, assessments and federal accountability.
- Restore authority to call elections four times a year. Do not limit school district election dates to one day per year, such as the November regular election day. (Note the impact that Harris County Appraisal District's delayed valuation dates have on ISD elections.)

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT

SBISD advocates the following:

- Ensure the State's rating system is meaningful and not misleading by using adequate descriptive terms for district and campus performance.
- Ensure state assessments are age appropriate in terms of testing time and number of days tested, especially in elementary school.
- Allow districts to provide an alternative path to graduation for students who cannot pass an End of Course exam after multiple administrations; continue acceptance of Individual Graduation Committees (IGCs).
- Do not increase the number of End of Course exams.
- Allow alternative assessments for schools, such as MAP in elementary and middle school, and SAT or ACT in high school.
- Allow districts to use multiple-measure assessment systems in place of the current, limited single-assessment data A-F system.
- Support meaningful assessments that reduce the emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing and free up instructional time, especially for elementary and middle school students.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

SBISD advocates the following:

- Provide adequate full-day state funding for eligible students in district Pre-Kindergarten programs, and do not require departure from SBISD's successful model.
- Eliminate the mandate of a single assessment of Pre-Kindergarten students; allow alternative assessments or review of Pre-Kindergarten programs.

