



# 2023 Legislative Priorities

## ★ SCHOOL FINANCE\*

**Our Asks:** (1) Update the school funding formula and increase the basic allotment, considering regional cost differences. (2) Reduce the growth of recapture and provide a discount for districts that make early recapture payments. (3) Support equitable property tax relief. (4) Relieve the burden of unfunded mandates.

## ★ TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION\*

**Our Asks:** Provide additional state funding for (1) educator and staff compensation; (2) employee health and retirement benefits through the Teacher Retirement System [TRS]; (3) substantial financial aid and other programs as incentives for prospective teachers to enter the profession.

## ★ STUDENT AND STAFF MENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY\*

**Our Asks:** (1) Improve capacity and access to funding for community and school mental health services and professionals, either within a district or a collaborative network. (2) Support family, school and community partnerships through resources that help identify and solve student mental health issues, which often contribute to physical safety and campus security concerns.

## ★ STANDARDIZED TESTING\*

**Our Asks:** (1) Expand opportunities for locally determined accountability frameworks and reduce the emphasis on mandatory state assessments. (2) Remove the high-stakes focus of the A-F rating system and assessments that impact students, teachers and schools. (3) Reduce the time students spend taking state tests and prohibit standardized tests from serving as the primary indicator of school and student performance.

## ★ SCHOOL FACILITIES AND BONDS\*

**Our Asks:** (1) Allow school district bond and voter-approved tax ratification propositions to include locally determined ballot language that accurately and clearly informs voters of what the measure seeks to accomplish. (2) Adequately fund and update current facility programs, while recognizing disparities in local property values. (3) Appropriate existing state surplus funds to assist school districts with building new facilities, as needed.

## ★ ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC DOLLARS\*

**Our Asks:** (1) Ensure public tax dollars fund public schools with clear systems of accountability in place. The diversion of property tax dollars to unaccountable schools (e.g., charters and vouchers) takes essential resources away from public-school students, hurts districts' ability to pay teachers, increases recapture and reduces fiscal, academic and electoral transparency for taxpayers. (2) Hold accountable and to a consistent standard any school that receives public funding by enforcing consistent standards for student performance and management of taxpayer resources.

Adopted by the Eanes ISD Board of Trustees

John Havenstrite, President

James Spradley, Vice President

Heather Sheffield, Secretary

Ellen Balthazar, Trustee

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Kim McMath, Trustee

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\* Priority aligns with 2023 legislative priorities of the Texas Association of School Boards and/or the Texas Schools Coalition.