

Spring Branch ISD

# Legislative Priorities

FOR THE 88th SESSION  
OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE



Adopted by the Spring Branch ISD  
Board of Trustees on December 9, 2022

## SCHOOL FINANCE, RECAPTURE, & PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- Reform the current school funding system and provide equitable property tax relief by:
  - Increasing the basic allotment (to a minimum of \$7,200 per student).
  - Modifying the Basic Allotment formula to provide automatic inflation adjustments; geographic cost-of-living adjustments; and fully fund HB3 provisions.
  - Slowing the negative effects of recapture by reinstating an early payment discount for recapture payments.
  - Increasing education allotments for economically-disadvantaged, special education, English learners, gifted and talented, and career technical education students.
  - Increasing the Golden Penny yield with full local discretion.
  - Funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance.
- Encourage additional property tax relief by adopting full-credit Homestead Exemption to recapture.
- Promote transparency by keeping school tax dollars from property value growth in public education rather than feeding the general fund or clearly state on property tax statements recapture effects and where dollars will be used rather than local public schools.
- Eliminate recapture on any new and / or additional tax revenue generated.
- Preserve school boards 100% discretion to manage local fund balances.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates.
- Provide funding for broadband equity to ensure every student has access to support online accountability changes.
- Restore instructional materials and technology funding.
- Increase student allotment for district-charter partnerships.
- Expand pre-K funding to include funding for a full-day pre-K-3 program.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

- Increase the safety and security funding allotment to a minimum of \$100 per student and allow local districts discretion to spend funds based on district-specific needs and challenges.
- Broaden school safety statutes to improve access to evidence-based mental health services and mental health professionals for students and staff. At the same time, reduce the burden on educators and districts to identify and solve student mental health issues.
- Fully fund all requirements and eliminate unfunded mandates.

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## PARENTAL & LOCAL CONTROL

- Protect parental control of their child's education as set forth in policy and oppose any limitations to the ability of individuals to advocate on behalf of the students, schools, and taxpayers of SBISD.
- Protect and expand the local control provided to Boards of Trustees to reflect the interests and needs of our community.
- Protect district control of instructional materials and resources that provide the highest quality of education and best fit the needs and the recommendations of local committees.
- Allow local discretion to bundle Bond Election items to best serve the needs of the district.
- Promote accountability of public funds by allowing clear and honest ballot language about bond and tax ratification elections and the effect on the tax rate.
- Protect Districts of Innovation (HB 1842) by allowing districts to fully implement local innovation plans and address local needs.

## TEACHER COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, & TRAINING

- Modify TRS to afford retirees the opportunity to return to work within local districts without negative impacts to their retirement benefits and compensation.
- Preserve TRS Active Care unless there is a sustainable and well-funded replacement.
- Afford greater flexibility of Special Education and bilingual teacher assignments by reducing the complexity of Special Education and bilingual teacher certifications.
- Remove surcharge to TRS for hiring retirees when the position has been vacant for greater than three months.
- Reimburse districts for required TRS surcharge payments for Special Education and bilingual educators.

## ACCOUNTABILITY & ASSESSMENT

- Eliminate incentive-based funding tied to state-mandated or alternative assessment results.
- Support meaningful assessments that reduce the emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing and TEA-driven formative testing; thereby freeing up instructional time, especially for elementary and middle school students.
- Ensure the State's rating system is meaningful and not misleading by using adequate descriptive terms for district and campus performance.
- Advocate for Hold Harmless ratings in 2023 in light of changes in STAAR and TELPAS, the resetting of standards, as well as design and methodology changes leading to an accountability reset.
- Monitor Commissioner's Accountability "reset" and implement weighted CCMR with freshman class beginning SY 2023-24 as opposed to retroactively weighting CCMR to Class of 2022.
- Advocate for TEA to provide any changes or adjustments in the accountability system or adjusted indicators prior to June 1 to afford effective planning, program adjustments and staff development.
- Ensure access to audio and writing responses from TELPAS are provided to districts allowing 10 working days for review and possible submission of rescore requests.
- Ensure constructed responses / essays from STAAR RLA 3 - 8 and English I / II EOCs are provided to districts allowing 10 working days for review and possible submission of rescore requests.
- Advocate for the requirement for an independent third-party contractor to conduct rescore requests to eliminate conflict of interest in the current process and increase transparency of the process.