



# 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

## 1 SAFETY:

Carroll ISD supports and appreciates the efforts of all Texas elected officials to make schools safer.

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WE SUPPORT:

- the Texas Legislature to continue working with local school districts to identify and address student needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters
- the Texas Legislature working with public school districts and their locally-elected Trustees to identify, fund and implement measures – including increased support for counseling services, mental health programs and sufficient staffing to fulfill those services – that increase student and staff safety on campus and recognize the unique characteristics of each district

## 2 FINANCE:

Carroll ISD supports ongoing efforts to ensure that the school finance system adequately provides resources for all Texas school children, while still allowing local districts the opportunity to provide enrichment opportunities to promote academic rigor in their communities.

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WE SUPPORT:

- no reductions in state funding due to COVID-19 and maintain the funding implemented under HB3
- state legislators sharing the costs of funding public schools by providing at least 50% of Foundation School Program formula funding to reduce an over-reliance on local property taxes and resist supplanting the state's prior-year contribution with increases in local property values
- greater transparency of district tax revenue by creating a separate line item in each taxpayer's bill that shows the portion of district maintenance and operations tax revenue recaptured by the state under Chapter 49
- efforts to oppose legislation that transfers public funds in the form of a voucher, tax credit, education savings accounts, tax credit scholarships/grants, tuition reimbursement and/or a voucher program by any other name that does not hold all entities receiving taxpayer funds to the same accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools
- prohibiting legislation that imposes fiscal impact on any school district without corresponding funding
- increase state funding of TRS-ActiveCare and TRS-Care so that the benefits for and contributions from district employees are equivalent to state employees under the Employees Retirement System of Texas
- adequate funding and support of special education

## 3 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

Carroll ISD supports ongoing efforts to ensure a uniform and effective accountability system that measures student academic growth over time and promoted college and career readiness.

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WE SUPPORT:

- state funding for diversity and cultural awareness initiatives to include a professional development course for teachers and staff and curriculum resources for students
- limiting the state student assessment program to only those assessments required to meet ESSA (federal) requirements
- establishing a comprehensive accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents and teachers, as well as measures what each community deems important in promoting college and career readiness

## 4 LOCAL CONTROL:

Carroll ISD supports ongoing efforts to ensure that locally elected Trustees are given the authority to make decisions that directly affect the constituents and children they serve.

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WE SUPPORT:

- freedom for local districts to make decisions based on their community's input, expectations and standards for academic rigor and financial accountability
- K-12 public schools to remain "in-person" and not be entirely replaced by a virtual learning platform, except when it would threaten the health and safety of students or staff
- the Texas Legislature to recognize and preserve the right of public school boards to associate and collaborate with each other and to communicate the needs of their students and schools, both directly and through representative organizations, with lawmakers