



CLEAR CREEK – DICKINSON – FRIENDSWOOD – GALVESTON –
HITCHCOCK – SANTA FE – TEXAS CITY

Galveston County Schools Consortium Legislative Priorities

The Galveston County Schools Consortium represents seven school districts located along the Texas Gulf Coast with more than 70,000 students thriving through public education. The superintendents and elected school board members partner with lawmakers in support of education-friendly policy.

STUDENT SAFETY

In 2019, the Galveston County Schools Consortium introduced the concept of a school safety allotment. Through collaborative efforts during the 86th Legislature, an annual safety allotment was established which gave school districts flexibility to use those funds based on local needs. Considering recent events in Texas and across the U.S., the Legislature should:

1. **Increase** the School Safety Allotment **and maintain local flexibility** on how to use those funds to cover existing expenses, hire additional school resource officers and behavioral health professionals, and/or security equipment and services.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Inflation, unfunded full-day pre-kindergarten, and financial penalties under House Bill 3 are crippling school districts across Texas. These cost drivers can be addressed by prioritizing school finance in the following ways:

1. Increase the basic allotment and incorporate a cost-of-inflation supplement in each biennium.
2. Extend the basic allotment to fund full-day pre-kindergarten. If not, do not mandate it.
3. Find a permanent solution to the Formula Transition Grant so no school district is financially penalized by the House Bill 3 funding system.
4. Recognizing technology has become an integral part of a student's experience, an increase in the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment for the sole purpose of purchasing student computers.

TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

Teacher and support staff retention and recruitment are the largest challenges facing school districts in the nation today. The State can assist school districts in developing a strong and highly qualified workforce through these legislative actions:

1. **Remove financial penalties** and TRS red tape to allow **TRS retirees to return** to work, filling positions that are in short supply.
2. **Increase State funding** for **TRS Active Care** to stabilize the cost impact on teachers and support staff.

LOCAL CONTROL

Local control and flexibility are foundational to ensure that districts can respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

1. Give **local authority** over which **uniform election date** a school district may call.
2. Continue to support **Districts of Innovation**.
3. Amend **House Bill 4545** to allow **educators** to decide the number of **tutoring hours** necessary for an individual child.
4. Ensure all **bond and tax rate election ballot** language is clear, transparent, and understandable.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

It is time to address the overreliance on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness and:

1. **Limit state assessments** to only those required by **federal law**.
2. Remove language from HB 1842 (84th Session) which requires school districts who qualify for the **District of Innovation** distinction to remain on the state assessment system and allow those districts to apply for **alternative accredited assessment** programs.
3. **Support** the use of **community-based accountability** systems where they have proven results.