



Public schools and staff need additional funding.

Basic Allotment and School Funding

- Because of record inflation, public schools need more than \$14 billion in new per-student funding to have the same buying power as in 2019. The state only provided \$2.6 billion during the regular session.
- The Basic Allotment (the foundation of how all Texas public schools are funded by the state) should be meaningfully increased and include an adjustment for inflation to provide *every* school district with the funding and flexibility to increase staff salaries and to best meet local district needs for years to come.
- Local school districts need a minimum \$900 increase in the Basic Allotment just to address the 17% inflationary costs.
- The State of Texas received more than \$30 billion surplus revenue this biennium; the funds are available, however funding for school districts is being held hostage due to political differences.

Specific School Funding Needs in Northwest ISD

- NISD adopted a \$3 million deficit to sustain pay increases for staff, student instructional programs of choice, and extracurricular activities. The district will begin budgeting for the 2024-2025 school year already \$3 million in the hole.
- An increase in the Basic Allotment of \$100 (as one proposal offered during the regular session) would provide Northwest ISD an additional \$3 million. This would equate to just over a 1% staff raise for *one year only*. A 1% raise does very little to offset the 17% increase in inflation that our staff members' families are coping with in their personal finances.

School Funding and Private-School Vouchers

- Texas public schools should be appropriately funded before dedicating limited financial resources for private school interests. The state of Texas and local taxpayers have a limited budget. While a surplus is available this biennium, dedicating funds for private-school vouchers could place public schools in jeopardy of losing state funding in the future if the economy slows down.
- The state's budgeting and funding should be sustainable. Voucher programs in other states regularly grow well beyond their projected costs. In Arizona's private-school voucher program, the cost grew from a projected cost of \$65 million to an actual cost of \$900 million in two years – an increase of 1400%.
- Providing vouchers to families for Special Education services does not address the fact that Texas school districts have never been fully funded to implement the state requirements of IDEA.
- Public schools educate more than 90% of students in Texas. Those students deserve full funding for their schools before any discussion of diverting taxpayer money for private school subsidies.