

Legislative Priorities for the 88th Texas Legislative Session



Fort Worth ISD Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
5:30 p.m.



Fort Worth ISD Proposed Priorities For the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature



School Safety

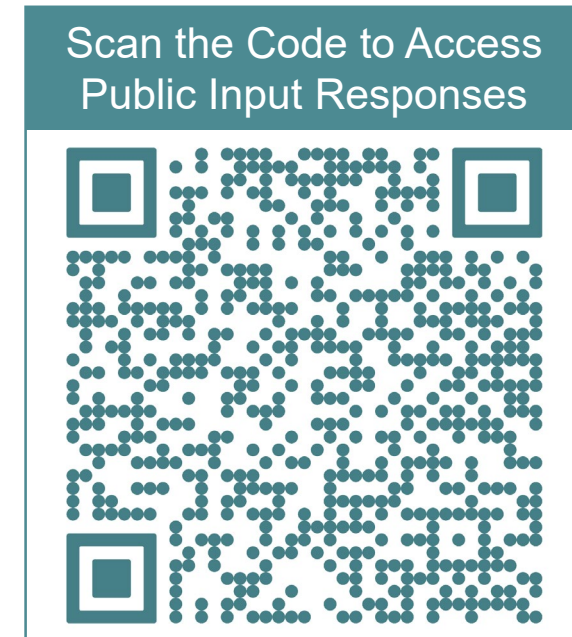
Student Learning

Learning Loss Recovery
Public Education Funding
Accountability

Fort Worth ISD Stakeholder Input



- ★ District stakeholders provided input on proposed legislative priorities via an online form. (December 13 – January 4)
- ★ Stakeholder input was compiled, aligned to each priority and reviewed by the Board Legislative Committee. (January 4).
- ★ Meetings were also hosted with the following stakeholder groups (January 9):
 - ✓ District Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Parent Advisory Group
 - ✓ Teacher Advisory Group
 - ✓ Support Staff Advisory Group



Fort Worth ISD Stakeholder Input



“I would hope for priorities about School Safety that highlight the work we can do within the walls of our schools to prevent future tragedies by supporting existing students. There are many things we can do (with adequate funding and support) to make our students feel safe and loved that will do so much more good than turning our schools into hardened and armed camps that would daily traumatize our students.” – **Parent**

“Crossing guards should be at **every** school.” – **Parent**

“Mental health of students is an issue in middle school, especially since their return from the pandemic. Behavior is also an issue with students not being held accountable for their actions.” – **District Employee**

“I think safety should be top priority. Thank you for sharing this with us. I do agree with these FWISD proposed legislative priorities.” – **District Employee**

Fort Worth ISD Stakeholder Input



“I don't see anything mentioned about vouchers in the priorities above. Could you include something like – ‘keep public dollars in public schools’. Definitely love the other funding priorities, especially ADA. Could you also include tying the basic allotment to the inflation index?” – **Parent**

“Main priorities: Public Education Funding: Improving access to affordable health insurance for public school employees by increasing the state monthly contribution per employee to TRS Active Care.” – **District Employee**

“I do not see anything around impact of COVID and need to intense tutoring for emergent bilingual (EB) students and /or sped students, raising the amount received for EB, biliteracy, development of assessments of EB students until HS.” – **Community Member**

Fort Worth ISD Stakeholder Input



“Excellent priorities. Thank you for informing all stakeholders and for prioritizing teachers and students.” - **Parent**

“The legislation needs to consider how they can increase the number of teachers happily employed and how that can then affect students and families. We need to examine how accountability measures are not truly evaluating teachers and campuses, we need to increase funding across the board, not just to cover inflation, so that teachers can be more effective in recovering learning loss.” – **District Employee**

Thank you for sending this out wanting feedback from stakeholders. The order of priority for me would be the following: 1. Accountability 2. Public Education Funding 3. School Safety 4. Pandemic Learning Loss Recovery. (Pandemic Learning Loss has some items that I do not agree with such as more technology and instructional materials. The rotation of new materials before they have had time to be implemented and sufficient data collected at its effectiveness is making some teachers weary.) – **District Employee**

Fort Worth ISD Legislative Priorities



School Safety

- ★ Increased funding of the School Safety Allotment and local flexibility to ensure districts can adequately meet student and staff safety needs.
- ★ Providing appropriate ongoing funding for identification, services and supports for students with mental health needs.
- ★ Allowing school districts flexibility to determine how safety and mental health funds are spent in order to best meet local needs.

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Student Learning: Pandemic Learning Loss Recovery

- ★ Increasing the Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment to ensure students have access to high-quality materials and technology devices.
- ★ Increasing special education funding to fill critical positions and cover cost of diagnostics.
- ★ Additional funding to support House Bill 4545 requirements, extended learning opportunities and wraparound services for students once ESSER III funds end.

Fort Worth ISD Legislative Priorities



Student Learning: Public Education Funding

- ★ Adjusting the basic allotment for inflation OR raising the basic allotment by \$200 per student to accommodate the rising staffing and operational costs.
- ★ Funding schools based on enrollment instead of average daily attendance (ADA) to better reflect how public schools are staffed and operated.
- ★ Full funding for universal pre-K to accelerate access to research-based early childhood learning.
- ★ Improving access to affordable health insurance for public school employees by increasing the state monthly contribution per employee to TRS Active Care.
- ★ The enactment of a substantial and meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Teacher Retirement System retirees.

Fort Worth ISD Legislative Priorities



Student Learning: Accountability

- ★ The development of an assessment system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers.
- ★ Reforming the accountability system to appropriately measure all factors that influence student performance and school ratings, including locally controlled flexible accountability measures.
- ★ Applying equal accountability and financial transparency standards for charter and traditional public schools.

Next Steps



**Board
Approval**



**Communication to Support
Awareness and Engagement**



Advocacy



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