



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

for 88th Texas Legislative Session

In August of 2022, the Boerne ISD Board of Trustees adopted five legislative priorities for the 88th session of the Texas Legislature, including 1. sustainable property tax relief, 2. reforming HB 4545, 3. fully funding the New Instructional Facilities Allotment, 4. providing a cost-of-living adjustment for retired educators, and 5. increasing the Basic Allotment to assist in the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers.

Boerne ISD trustees are very pleased with the progress made on priorities 1-4, yet more work needs to be done. Voters will need to approve Proposition 9 – Cost of Living Adjustment for retired educators, and Proposition 4 – Homestead Exemption Increase, on November 7, 2023, to enact these priorities. While local school boards cannot officially endorse specific candidates or amendments on the ballot, voter approval of these would fulfill the legislative priorities previously adopted by Boerne ISD Trustees in August 2022.

## ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ADEQUATELY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

### 1. Increase the Basic Allotment to keep pace with inflation

The rate of inflation has increased by 17.2% since the last time the Basic Allotment was increased in 2019. The Texas Constitution allows for spending increases to meet the combined rate of inflation and population growth, but since 2019, the state has only funded student enrollment growth.

Due to responsible management of the state's finances, Texas has experienced a time of growth and prosperity, resulting in a large surplus of state funds. Available money remains prior to the state reaching its constitutional spending limit in addition to the \$4 billion available for K-12 public education (but not formally appropriated) in the approved 2023-24 budget.

**Ask:** We call on the Legislature to increase the Basic Allotment by a respectable amount and provide the funding necessary for the ever-increasing costs of meeting the needs of Texas students.

### 2. An Honorable Profession

Teaching is an honorable profession worthy of improved compensation. Increasing the Basic Allotment would provide additional money to be spent primarily on teacher pay as well as other school employees. Texas teachers currently earn an average of \$7,000 less than the national average. As Texans, we don't believe that we are average, let alone below average. Texas public school teachers are on the front lines of educating over 5 million Texas children and are largely responsible for the significant progress in our state's graduation rates and college, career, or military readiness.

The Teacher Vacancy Task Force appointed by Governor Abbott issued recommendations for the Texas Legislature which were never addressed.

**Ask:** The Boerne ISD Board of Trustees encourages the Texas Legislature to increase the Basic Allotment and teacher pay in the expected October 2023 Special Session of the Texas Legislature and to implement the recommendations of the Teacher Vacancy Task Force.

\*Priorities for the expected October Special Legislative Session

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