

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING.

- Prioritize long-term funding for Texas public schools, ensuring that the state's constitutional obligations to public education are fully met before considering or developing any private-school voucher or Education Savings Account program.
- Establish a formula-driven increase to the Basic Allotment each biennium based on the rate of inflation.
- Provide full funding for state mandates.
  - Increase the funding weight of the Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, and other student group allotments to more adequately address all associated costs, both direct and indirect.
  - Fully fund the state-mandated expansion of universal high-quality full-day pre-kindergarten.
  - Increase the School Safety Allotment to fully fund the mandates approved under House Bill 3 based on actual costs incurred by a school district.
  - Increase the Special Education Transportation Allotment to fully fund the transportation of students as mandated.
- Increase the Transportation Allotment from \$1 per mile, roughly 25% of the actual cost, to help ensure students have the transportation necessary to attend school.
- Reduce the burden of recapture, such as providing a discount for districts that make early recapture payments. Increase the threshold of when recapture begins with an increase in the basic allotment and funding structure based on enrollment, creating a higher floor.
- Require all recapture dollars be spent on Texas public school districts by establishing a separate, dedicated, transparent fund, ending the practice of the state supplanting its investment in education with recapture dollars and preventing the use of recaptured tax dollars for private schools or any other project that is not related to public school districts.
- Provide considerations, accommodations, and relief for fast-growth school districts to include increasing the capacity of the Fast Growth Allotment to acknowledge the growing statewide need and to reduce or eliminate proration.
- Oppose universal private-school vouchers or Education Savings Account programs where there is no public financial or academic accountability for public tax dollars.



## **SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS.**

- Establish a comprehensive accountability system that includes meaningful, diversified data points, as well as flexible measures that parents and local communities value.
- Statutorily pause accountability ratings to allow one full year to properly implement any new STAAR assessment changes.
- Prioritize funding and incentives for teacher recruitment and retention that offers local flexibility.



## **SUPPORT LOCAL DECISION-MAKING.**

- Support community-focused governance and local flexibility to meet student and staff needs.
- Support expansion of materials approved through the new Instructional Materials Review and Approval process and more local decision-making and flexibility in the selection of instructional materials that receive funding at the higher level.
- Ensure all bond and tax rate election ballot language is clear, transparent, and understandable. Revise required language that misleads voters. Oppose legislation that limits dates upon which elections may be held or that creates additional requirements, such as voter turnout thresholds or supermajorities.