



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2024 - 2025

OVERVIEW

These legislative priorities were drafted based on input from the Belton ISD community through listening circles with parents, city leaders, spiritual leaders, non-profit leaders, campus administrators, staff, and board members.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our children are worth the cost.

Texas ranks 42nd in the nation when it comes to per student funding for public education. Serving the needs of a large, diverse student population is costly. Parents and community members rely on our public schools to provide high-quality education and ensure a bright future for each and every student. Now is the time to invest in learning experiences that empower students to thrive in future careers while also addressing the growing mental health concerns in our society.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the basic allotment to account for inflation
- Calculate funding based on enrollment
- Expand CTE program funding to include elementary
- Increase funding for special education programs
- Fund full-day Pre-K
- Increase safety allotment & mental health supports

"The essence of public school is helping kids see their potential, to see dreams they have never seen before, and to pull kids out of generational poverty."

- BISD parent

TEACHER & STAFF EFFICACY

**When we support our teachers and staff,
we support our children's future.**

High-quality teachers and staff are strongly linked to student achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success. As the profession faces unprecedented shortages, we must support retention, recruitment and development practices that strengthen the education workforce.

"Our teachers and personnel are not just doing this for a job. It's a calling as much as a pastor is called. It is a deep and holy calling, and legislators need to know that. They (teachers) certainly don't get rich doing it, and they perform under tremendous pressure. They aren't first responders, but they are responders who shape our future."

- Local community faith-based leader

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase compensation
- Reduce healthcare costs
- Provide differentiated compensation incentives for high-needs areas (Special Education, Bilingual, etc.)
- Provide multiple state-supported instructional resource options

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

It's time to measure what matters most.

The purpose of the accountability system is to inform the public but our current system places too much emphasis on standardized testing. Students and schools are so much more than just one test on one day and our community deserves an accountability system that more accurately reflects the many factors that contribute to a quality education.

"I wish our legislators would use a tool to measure success that is more broad and not one test.

Capture the whole story, not a slice of it."

- BISD PTO Leader

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand the scope of the state accountability system to include factors beyond STAAR test scores such as community engagement and financial reporting
- Ensure equal transparency and accountability for all public, private, and charter schools receiving public funds
- Modify required ballot language for bond elections

**Inspiring Dreams.
Empowering Futures.**

