

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SHELDON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sheldon ISD is committed to prioritizing parent-choice and student-focused initiatives that foster academic excellence and ensure equitable opportunities for all. The school district advocates for policies that empower families and secure desired funding to enhance our programs and retain and recruit teachers. These priorities listed below focus on expanding resources for students and teachers while continuing to strengthen the overall educational experience for public schools in Texas.

Educational Funding



Oppose vouchers and legislation that authorizes state funds to be used to pay for private school tuition and related costs.



Support equitable finance system that keeps public dollars in public schools.



Advocate for funding that raises per-pupil funding to national average.



Support use of enrollment vs. attendance as the standard for school funding.



Advocate for funding full-day Pre-K programs for all students.

FACT:

The amount of funding a school district receives per student varies based on several factors, including local property taxes, state funding formulas, and federal assistance.

Due to no increase in the basic allotment from the state, Sheldon ISD is operating nearly \$1,400 short per student to maintain educational needs.

Accountability/ Student Success



- **Oppose A-F system accountability rating system and advocate for a system that has value with flexible measures for communities.**
- **Monitor legislation that allows districts the flexibility to make decisions based on their community's needs.**
- **Advocate for a system that does not automatically lower a district's overall or domain performance rating.**
- **Support an extensive review with stakeholder input for changes to the A-F rating system and a new version of the current STAAR system.**

FACT:

Texas has spent millions of dollars toward the STAAR exam and has not provided more funding to public schools for needed resources such as instructional materials and adequate technology to meet higher standards for students.

Recruitment & Retention

As Texas faces a growing teacher shortage, addressing recruitment and retention must be a top priority in the upcoming legislative session to ensure the future of quality education in our state. By investing in competitive salaries, professional development, and support systems, lawmakers can help us attract and retain the talented educators our students deserve.

FACT:

Sheldon ISD has continued to increase teacher pay without seeing an increase in funding from the state and remains one of the higher paying school districts in the Houston area. However, without additional funding, approving raises will become difficult.



Since 2019, costs for various goods and services in Texas, including bills, gasoline, education, and more have risen significantly due to inflation, supply chain disruptions, and various economic factors.



Across the state, the cost of education per student has increased by about 10–20% since 2019. With an increase to cost of living, Sheldon ISD spends \$11,214 per student and has received no additional funding from the state to maintain and improve the quality of education per child.

Provide Choice to Families

A choice for public schools is an investment in the legacy of its community.

Public schools in Texas are the heart of our communities, where every child—regardless of background or zip code—has the opportunity to succeed.

Instead of directing funding to vouchers, the state should invest in the schools that serve ALL Texans, ensuring every child has access to high-quality education right in their own neighborhoods.



FACT:

Since 2019, Sheldon ISD has seen an increase in students needing additional support through resources like counseling, special education services, mental health and more. Increasing funding formulas provides for equitable learning opportunities for all students.