NORTHWEST ISD

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES | TALKING POINTS

PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- Fund public schools first; oppose vouchers / education savings accounts
- Voucher funding would create a new financial commitment in the budget
- Private schools/students choosing vouchers should be subject to financial/academic accountability

INCREASE BASIC ALLOTMENT TO MATCH INFLATION

- Increase basic allotment to $7500 (from $6160)
- Allow for salary increases for all staff (teachers are only 60% of staff)
    - Continue to require districts to spend 30% of new funding on teacher raises (same as with 2019 HB3)
    - 40% of staff include para-professionals/aides, special ed paras, front office staff - secretaries, registrar, attendance clerk, diagnosticians, specialists, maintenance, custodians, food services, campus principals/assistant principals
    - All central administration ("Administrators") = only 2.5% of the total payroll budget

FULLY FUND FULL DAY PRE-K

- Pre-K students that attend full day should receive the full basic allotment (BA)

INCREASE WEIGHTED FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND BILINGUAL STUDENTS

- Sped and Bilingual are the fastest growing student populations in NISD and Texas
- Increase weights as TEA recommends– TEA says Sped is under-funded in Texas by $1.5B

INCREASE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TO MATCH INFLATION

- NISD receives $1 per route mile and spends $4.31 per mile ("all-in" transportation cost)

FUND SECURITY MANDATES BASED ON LOCAL COSTS

- NISD spent $2.3M in required campus officers/armed guards and received $800K in state funding
- Fully fund costs or allow districts to be reimbursed for the difference between funding and actual local cost of SROs/armed guards

ELIMINATE OR REDUCE RECAPTURE

- Since 2019 NISD has paid $52.8M in local tax revenue back to the State due to Recapture

REFORM ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

- Eliminate or drastically reduce the weight of STAAR on accountability
- Allow for local measures to be included in new accountability system (i.e. measure student participation in extra-curricular activities)

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