

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL

To meet the needs presented through all of TISD's legislative priorities, the public-school funding model must be reformed. The rising needs of students requires additional dollars to meet the needs. In addition, the cost of managing a school district is not immune to inflation and financial constraints of the general community.

- The Basic Allotment has not been adjusted since 2019, well before the major inflation that occurred in the last 5 years. It must be increased to meet the rising cost of educating students.
- A funding model based on enrollment in lieu of attendance is needed. Regardless of a student's attendance, if they are enrolled, the cost of educating the student exists.
- Unfunded mandates by the state continue to deplete the district budget and restricts additional resources that should be provided to students and staff.
- Special education funding is currently set to have a shortfall regardless of the instructional situation. The cost per student allotment is not sufficient to serve students served through special programming.

LOCAL CONTROL

Tomball ISD is a fast-growth, high performing district who prides itself on the unique attributes that make it stand out as a premier district in its service to students, staff, and community. We believe that the ability to maintain LOCAL CONTROL provides us with the ability to design experiences that best fit our stakeholders.

- National issues should not be assumed as local issues.
- Maintaining local control of the curriculum within state standards allows for the needs of each individual learner to be met and protects our students from a "cookie-cutter" approach.
- Aligning the TISD educational experience to community standards enables our students to serve our community well post-graduation.

About Tomball ISD

Tomball ISD educates students to become responsible, productive citizens by providing innovative, individually rigorous, and personally valuable educational experiences. Founded in 1908, Tomball ISD now encompasses 83 square miles in northwest Harris County and southwest Montgomery County, and is located approximately 30 miles from downtown Houston. The district currently educates over 23,000 students at 24 campuses.

SCHOOL SAFETY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Tomball ISD prioritizes educating the whole child. We realize that this encompasses not only academic standards, but behavioral health. None of this can be accomplished without a safe and secure environment.

- State mandates for school physical safety and security measures should be fully funded.
- Designing and supporting strategies in the classroom that promote positive student behavior and discipline will increase student academic achievement.
- Additional resources are needed in counseling and supportive measures to address mental health challenges of students.

TEXAS WORKFORCE: RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, RETENTION

Tomball ISD recognizes that the heart of district work occurs in the classroom. Our teachers and support staff provide the day-to-day experiences and support to all of our students. We recognize that the support provided to these staff members will directly lead to the holistic success of all students.

- Competitive salaries for teachers that match inflation will assist in the recruitment of highly qualified teachers for every classroom.
- The ability to increase the salary to a competitive wage for the support staff, paraprofessionals, will directly affect the recruitment and retention of highly qualified individuals in these positions.
- Decreasing the teacher workload would serve as a retention strategy that would keep our most successful teacher in the classroom long term.

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