



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

for 89th Texas Legislative Session

Education is expected to be a key issue that the Texas Legislature addresses in the next session. The 86th session saw the first update to public school financing in many years, while beginning a process of relief for property owners with regards to Maintenance & Operations tax rates. The 89th session will likely continue to focus on property tax relief along with necessary public-school funding formula updates, teacher pay, and Education Savings Accounts. The priorities listed below were unanimously adopted by the Boerne ISD Board of Trustees.

THE PRIORITIES LISTED BELOW WERE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE BOERNE ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

1.

Increase the Basic Allotment to keep pace with inflation

- There have been no increases in the Basic Allotment since May 2019 despite cumulative inflation of 22.4% since that time.
- Local districts face substantial increased costs for fuel, utilities, and insurance.
- This means that public schools have seen increases in funding since 2019 that are far below the combination of inflation plus enrollment growth.

ASK: We call on the Legislature to increase the Basic Allotment by a respectable amount and provide the funding necessary for the ever-increasing costs of meeting the needs of Texas students.

2.

Honor the Profession

- Teaching is an honorable profession worthy of improved compensation. Sadly, Texas teachers earn on average \$7500 less than the national average. Our teachers work hard and have had a tremendous impact in producing the highest four-year high school graduation rate of any mid-sized or large district, and are responsible for teaching all those who enroll, including those with challenging educational disabilities.

ASK: We call on the Legislature to create a permanent Teacher Retention Allotment to help recruit and retain quality teachers who serve over 5 million Texas schoolchildren.

3.

Increase financial support for school safety

- HB 3 adopted in 2023 requires districts to post an armed security officer at every school and provide mental health training for certain district employees. Despite increased financial support, state aid covers only approximately 25% of Boerne ISD's security budget that aligns with the State of Texas mandate.

ASK: We call upon the Texas Legislature to increase its financial support for school safety.

4.

Continue Property Tax Relief

- The Legislature has acted appropriately in dedicating a significant amount of the state's budget surplus to lower M&O Tax Rates bringing needed tax relief to property owners.

ASK: We support efforts to continue increasing the share of state funding for K-12 public education and using part of any future state surplus to continue lowering the M&O tax rate.