



Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities

86TH SESSION SUMMARY

The 86th Legislative Session adjourned on May 27, 2019. More than 7,000 bills and resolutions were filed, and only 1,429 bills passed.

The following summary highlights specific areas as addressed in the 2019 Northwest ISD Legislative Priorities, but is not intended to provide a complete description or impact of the bills.



School Finance

Foundation School Program, Enrichment, Local Property Value & Property Tax, Allotments, Pre-K, Vouchers & Charters

HB 3 - School Finance Reform Bill

Landmark school finance and education reform bill.

School Finance: Increased funding for public education by \$6.5 billion, provided additional recapture-free pennies of tax rate, reformed recapture and cut recapture statewide by 47%, re-allocated various allotments, provided a fast-growth allotment, changed transportation funding to per-mile reimbursement and allows recapture districts to access this funding.

Pre-K: Expanded Pre-K for eligible 4-year olds to full-day, provided Early Education Allotment that can be used for Pre-K and roughly covers the statewide cost of the expansion.



Accountability & Assessment

HB 3906 – Student Assessment

Eliminates STAAR writing assessment (beginning 2021-2022), shortened target time it should take a student to complete each part (Grades 3-4 60 vs 120 minutes, Grades 5-8 75 vs. 180 minutes), assessments and end-of-course exams can be split into multiple parts administered over more than one day, assessment must not be more than 75% multiple-choice (beginning 2022-2023), established a pilot program for integrated formative assessment instruments and requires TEA to submit a report to determine feasibility of replacing STAAR and EOCs.

HB 3 – Education Reform

Required TEA to determine if each STAAR test is written at grade level.



School Safety & Security

SB 11 – School Safety

Provided a school safety allotment, added required policies and procedures for school safety and mental health.

SB 21 – Raising Age Limit to 21 for Cigarettes and E-Cigarettes

Increased the age limit for purchasing and consumption of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and tobacco products to 21, exempts under 21 who are enrolled in the military.



Local Control

No bills specifically supported enhancing decision-making for government entities closest to the citizens or opposing state/federal overreach.



Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) Funding

SB 12 – TRS Pension

Provided gradual increases in contribution to make the Teacher Retirement System actuarially sound; increases employee contributions to 8% (2021-2022 and 2022-2023) and 8.25% (2023-2024 and thereafter); required schools districts to contribute 1.5% (2019-2020), increasing to 2% (by 2024-2025 and thereafter); increased state contribution to 7.5% (2019-2020), increasing to 8.25% (by 2023-2024 and thereafter).



North Texas Transportation Infrastructure

No bills specifically supported efforts and funding to expand road infrastructure in the North Texas area or to expedite the construction of roadways for public schools planned or built.

For more information, visit nisdtx.org/legislative.