Northwest ISD

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Advocate for the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers, as well as measures what each community deems important in promoting college and career readiness. Oppose A–F campus and district ratings.

Oppose measures to increase the number of end-of-course exams (EOCs) required for graduation purposes.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FUNDING

Foundation School Program (FSP):

Advocate for adequate and equitable funding and oppose any cuts to the FSP. Support an updated and adequately funded formula-based school finance system, which takes into account student and district characteristics when determining appropriate levels of funding to meet state and local standards.

Protect the promise of Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR), enacted by the 79th Legislative session through House Bill 1, until another funding source is put in place to ensure that no school receives less revenue.

Facilities Funding:

Advocate for additional funding for the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA), Existing Debt Allotment (EDA), and the New Instructional Facilities Allotment (NIFA).

Vouchers, Taxpayer Savings Grants, Virtual Vouchers:

Oppose any state voucher plan, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or any program that diverts public tax dollars to private entities, home-school students, or parents with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.

Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA):

Advocate for increased funding for the IMA to ensure districts can provide adequate technology and instructional materials to meet increased standards for students.

Pre-K Funding:

Advocate for full funding of full-day pre-K for all students. At a minimum, providing full-day pre-K for all students that meet state eligibility requirements and allowing district-determined tuition-based enrollment for all other students.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS):

Advocate for the continuation of the current defined benefit pension program for TRS members. Advocate for increased state funding to assist with increased health care costs associated with TRS-ActiveCare and TRS-Care.

LOCAL CONTROL / GOVERNANCE

Governance:

Support measures that empower locally elected school boards with authority over local tax rates and revenue for the purpose of enrichment by extending the number of golden pennies available at local board discretion.

Support measures that provide voters and locally elected school boards the flexibility necessary to effectively manage fast-growth districts' tax rates that may need to exceed the $0.50 debt due to rapid enrollment growth and construction needs.

Adjust the Tax Ratification Election (TRE) Chapter 41 recapture rate from that enacted in 2007 ($319,500) to the rate used in the base formula calculation ($514,000).

Local Debt (ballot language):

Oppose any legislation that expands ballot language, does not provide accurate information, or that seeks to confuse voters and is inconsistent with ballot language required of other local subdivisions and the state. School districts communicate, seek input, and educate local communities on bond information extensively prior to elections.

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Northwest
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT