

# Northwest ISD

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### School Finance

- Restore Northwest ISD state funding to at least the 2010 level, adjusted for inflation, with a strong commitment from state leaders to public schools to fulfill their constitutional obligation to the children of Texas.
- 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.
- Restore full funding for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment, which was discontinued by the 83rd Texas Legislature in 2011, to at least 2010 level, adjusted for inflation, recognizing the financial burdens of fast growth school districts.
- Reduce Robin Hood's impact by increasing the state investment in education thereby keeping local dollars in local communities.
- Ensure the funding for public schools remains with public schools by opposing vouchers or any means that would divert money away from public schools.

### Local Control

- Support measures that empower locally-elected school boards with authority over local tax rates and revenue for the purpose of enrichment.
- Extend the number of golden pennies available at local board discretion.
- Adjust the Tax Ratification Election (TRE) Chapter 41 recapture rate from that enacted in 2007 (\$319,500) to the current rate used in the base formula (\$504,000).

### Public School Accountability

- Act upon and support the work of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium in its legislative charge to inform the governor, legislature, and commissioner concerning methods for transforming public schools in the state by improving student learning through the development of innovative, next-generation learning standards and assessment and accountability systems.
- Develop a public school accountability system that is reflective of community values, reflects greater validity, uses stratified sampling techniques, and measures learning through the assessment of Texas Readiness Standards identified in TEKS.
- Reduce the number of STAAR exams in grades 3-8 to only those required by NCLB:
  - Mathematics in grades 3 and 5 (without technology) and grade 8 (with technology).
  - Reading in grades 3, 5, and 8.
  - Science in grades 5 and 8.
- Oppose any measure to increase the number of end-of-course exams (EOC) required for administration and graduation purposes.