



Highland Park ISD

Priorities for 90th Legislative Session

Priority 1: Reinstate the early payment discount in order to reduce the recapture burden.

The optional early payment discount was offered to school districts until 2019. It is currently available to businesses making sales tax and motor-vehicle tax payments to the state. Dollars saved would help districts use more of their collected revenue for instructional purposes, such as academic programming and teacher pay.



Priority 2: Preserve local control over bond elections



Last year, the Texas Legislature considered a bill that would limit local control over bond elections by imposing state-determined caps on dollar amounts, raising voter thresholds, and restricting the timing for such elections. School boards are best equipped to determine the amount and timing of bond elections required to address their local district's needs, and current practices give the ultimate approval decision to the voters, where it belongs.

The proposed changes would diminish local school board and voter control and are designed to reduce successful bond elections, which are critical to funding in recapture districts, particularly when the state has not significantly increased the basic allotment.

Additional Highland Park ISD Legislative Positions

Position 1: Demand accountability for recapture funds. Fiscal responsibility and transparency for the use of public dollars are critical, so legislators should have no objection to providing basic information about how local taxpayer recapture funds are spent and whether they are used to offset the state's contribution to public education, Education Savings Accounts, or other state expenses.

Position 2: Increase the Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) to help address rising district costs such as insurance, utilities, benefits, and transportation. The ABC of \$106 per student no longer provides the same relief as intended by HB 2. Increasing the ABC would enable districts to better account for inflation and direct more dollars back to instructional purposes.