

INSPIRING
MINDS.

SHAPING
LIVES.



Spring Branch
Independent School District

Unfunded Mandates

Board Presentation | September 14, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to inform the Board of Trustees and the community about unfunded and underfunded mandates and their impact on the district's budget.

Terms

Unfunded/Underfunded Mandate-

A rule or requirement set by the state or federal government that forces school districts to complete tasks or provide services without providing funding sufficient to cover necessary costs

Budgetary Impact-

Costs of implementing, staffing, and maintaining the mandates are necessarily diverted from other areas of need

Areas of Insufficient Funding

- Safety & Security
- Special Education Services
- Tracking and Reporting Compliance
- Lagging Funding for Initiatives

Budgetary Impact

- Implementation costs and operating costs
- Additional expenditure
- Additional time
- Staff costs
- Federal funds cannot supplant general fund



Safety and Security

Safety and Security

- Peace Officer on All Campuses
- Fencing, Security Vestibules, Impact Film, and Signage
- Seatbelt Requirements
- Mental Health and Behavioral Health Supports
- Safety & Security Audits
- Silent Panic Alert Technology

Budgetary Impact:
\$31 million+



Special Education Services

Special Education Services

The federal government requires public schools to provide special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Districts are legally required to provide services regardless of whether state or federal funds cover the actual costs.

Annual Funding Provided: \$36.5 million

Annual Expenditure: \$53 million

We are underfunded by \$16.5 million annually.



Tracking and Reporting Compliance

Tracking and Reporting Compliance

- Debt Reporting (HB 1378, HB 103, HB 3526)
- TEA Misconduct Reporting
- New Teacher Mentors
- Safety & Security Audits & Reports
- Special Education - Tiered Intensity Model Reporting

Budgetary Impact:

Personnel capacity, time and resources



Lag in Funding for Required Initiatives

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- Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA)
- Student Teacher Residency, Grow Your Own, and Teacher Pipelines

*Lag in funding can span from months to years.

Budgetary Impact:
Personnel capacity, time and resources



Next Steps

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- Presentation to Board of Trustees Budget Advisory Committee
- Board discussion of Legislative Priorities

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Thank you!