

WORKING DRAFT

Spring Branch ISD Summary of Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates

Fall 2026

One of the most significant budget challenges for SBISD is the impact of unfunded and underfunded mandates — requirements established by the federal or state government that school districts must meet without sufficient funding to cover their full cost.

In SBISD, the most significant of these unfunded/underfunded mandates fall into four main categories:

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

In some cases, the costs are one-time costs, and in other cases, they are recurring, annual costs. The charts below provide an overview of the most significant of these costs and their budgetary impact.

Safety and Security (Both Unfunded and Underfunded)

Mandate	One-Time Costs	Annual Costs
Peace Officer on All Campuses	\$3,813,000 Year 1 costs to fully staff Officer on every campus	\$1,808,000 Net cost to district after state funding
Fencing, Security Vestibules, and Impact Film	\$9,800,000 From 2017 Bond*	
Seatbelt Requirements for buses	\$10,250,000 Estimated cost to retrofit all non compliant buses	
Silent Panic Alerts	\$2,900,000 Installation and 5 year operating costs	
Mental Health and Behavioral Health Supports		\$2,915,000 Counselors and training

Special Education Services (Underfunded Mandate)

Mandate	Projected Budgetary Cost FY27	Projected Funding FY27	Net Budgetary Impact (Underfunding for SBISD)
Under federal law, SBISD must provide special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), regardless of whether state or federal funds cover the actual costs.	\$53,000,000	\$36,500,000	(\$16,500,000)

Tracking and Reporting Compliance*

Mandate	One-Time Costs	Annual Costs
Debt and Elections Reporting (HB 1378, HB 103, HB 3526)	150-200 hours of implementation time	• 20-40 hours of data preparation and reporting
TEA Misconduct Reporting (SB 12)		• Reporting and submission (2 hours) • Misconduct Investigation (8-10 hours on average) • CPS/local law enforcement report/campus submissions by campus (1-2 hours) • 12.5 x 152 cases for SY 25-26= 1,900 hours • Equivalent of one employee doing only this reporting
New Teacher Mentors		• 80 hours of manually tracking information to Finance (1 work day per month)
Safety and Security Audits & Reports		• Region 4 at a rate of \$63,800 (3-year cycle); \$21,266 annually. • Campus Safety Officers conduct daily door sweeps (45 minutes daily) • Safety Walk conducted by Director of Safety and Security (90 minutes for each safety walk per facility)
Special Education - Tiered Intensity Model Reporting	Over 2,000 hours	• Unknown at this time

**Note: Many of these required reports are layered with others and are redundant. SBISD has run a successful new teacher mentoring program for many years; however, the state does not permit this successful model to be used in lieu of the state's model which is much more expensive to run.*

Lag in Funding for Initiatives *

Mandate	One-Time Costs	Annual Costs
Teacher Incentive Allotment		• Unknown at this time, as we are in Year 1 of Data Submission • 1 administrator position - \$90,000
Student Teacher Residency & Grow Your Own Teacher Pipeline		• 1 administrator position - \$90,00

**Note: The lag in funding/reimbursement from the State can span from months to years. In some cases, like Teacher Incentive Allotment, SBISD successfully has run a similar program, Opportunity Culture, designed to remunerate high impact teachers for remaining in the classroom, for which the State has not allowed funding.*