

# **AI SD Legislative Priorities**

## **90th Texas State Legislative Session**

September 21, 2026



# Staff Input

Staff input (*15 responses*) centered most heavily on:

- Teacher & Staff Compensation
- Public School Funding
- Special Education
- Curriculum, Testing & Instructional Time



| School Year    | Utilities  | Property & Casualty Insurance | Transportation | Retired/Reired Employees | Health Ins., Employee Benefits, & Payroll Taxes | TRS Contributions | Annual Total |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 2018-2019      | 910,128    | 205,206                       | 1,331,159      | 6,172                    | 937,541                                         | 647,968           | 4,038,174    |
| 2019-2020      | 929,050    | 283,961                       | 1,183,784      | 18,722                   | 1,034,734                                       | 817,074           | 4,267,325    |
| 2020-2021      | 939,242    | 308,406                       | 1,448,265      | 31,070                   | 1,173,243                                       | 893,273           | 4,793,499    |
| 2021-2022      | 1,586,301  | 518,380                       | 2,086,295      | 55,353                   | 1,351,815                                       | 1,078,801         | 6,676,945    |
| 2022-2023      | 1,690,932  | 698,325                       | 2,012,692      | 61,586                   | 1,582,908                                       | 1,382,804         | 7,429,247    |
| 2023-2024      | 1,796,222  | 802,155                       | 2,110,616      | 50,332                   | 1,747,618                                       | 1,642,763         | 8,149,706    |
| 2024-2025      | 1,964,546  | 988,345                       | 2,599,206      | 39,217                   | 2,053,879                                       | 1,771,548         | 9,416,741    |
| *2025-2026     | 1,960,000  | 889,500                       | 3,109,614      | 62,544                   | 2,431,654                                       | 1,998,600         | 10,451,912   |
| Category Total | 11,776,421 | 4,694,278                     | 15,881,631     | 324,997                  | 12,313,392                                      | 10,232,830        | 55,223,549   |

\*Budgeted Amts

**Facts:** 26% CPI Inflation Rate - 90% District Growth in Enrollment - 145% increase in operational costs -  
Approx \$360 reduction in per student funding

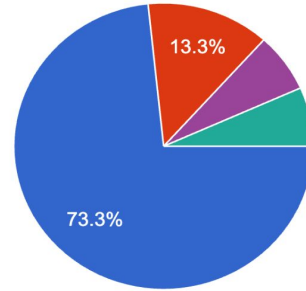
Using the \$6,160 BA figure, the amount remaining after just these operating costs fell from **\$4,935 to \$4,577 per student**, a loss of **\$358 per student**, before considering salaries, instruction, campus staffing, supplies, technology, and other educational costs.



# Legislative Priority Area 1 - Teacher & Staff Compensation

Legislative Priority 1 - Area to Address

15 responses



- Teacher and staff compensation
- Special Education
- Safety & Security
- Transportation
- Employee Benefits/Health Insurance
- Fixed Costs: Utilities, fuel, operational...
- Accountability & Assessment
- Online Testing Requirements

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- Salaries are not keeping pace with inflation and cost of living
- Rising health insurance costs every year
- Concerns that TIA does not provide an equitable or sustainable solution for all employees
- Need state to consider compensation for paraprofessionals, substitutes, specialists and support staff



# Legislative Priority Area 2 - Special Ed

- Provide additional resources for the **growth of self-contained and specialized classrooms**
- Funding that reflects the **actual cost of required services**
- **Increasing** documentation, coding and compliance requirements
- Concern about **additional accelerated-instruction requirements** for students already receiving specially designed instruction
- More training and flexibility to address **increasingly complex** student needs
- Ensure ESA policy does not **disproportionately shift high-cost students and responsibilities** to public schools without adequate funding



# Legislative Priority Area - Curriculum & Instruction

- Ensure curriculum **flexibility** and **fair funding**
- Clarify and **sustain funding** for Reading and Math Academies
- Restore **flexibility** in State Assessment Administration and **reduce screen dependence**, allowing districts to **choose** between paper-based and digital testing
- **Too much** testing and duplication of assessments
- **Compliance, intervention and reporting requirements** are consuming instructional and planning time
- Concern about **mandates** that may not be **developmentally appropriate**



# Legislative Priority Area 4 - Safety & Security

- Funding of the Armed Security Requirement - **UNDERFUNDED** as current funding only covers a portion
- Behavioral Threat Assessments - **UNDERFUNDED** mandate, many hours of work, no additional funding for additional staff
- **UNDERFUNDED** - At least one uniformed peace officer per 1,000 attendees for events exceeding 1,000 attendees - recommended to do so for any event over 250 attendees



# Legislative Priority Area 5 - Public School Funding

- State funding keeping pace with the **actual cost of educating students**
- Increasing costs for **utilities, insurance, transportation, technology and employee benefits**
- **Fully funding mandates** when new requirements are imposed
- **Special Education** and **Pre-K** funding
- Funding based on **attendance versus enrollment**
- Greater **local flexibility** in how districts use available resources

**Staff are not simply asking for more funding—they are asking for funding that matches what the state requires schools to provide.**



# Legislative Priority Area 6 - Underfunded Mandates

- **Transportation**

- **Mandatory** seat belts law requiring all buses to be equipped with 3-point seatbelts goes into effect. The cost to retrofit a bus is \$30,000-\$40,000 per bus.
  - **Underfunded Mandate:** As of now, the State of Texas is only offering a grant of \$6000 per bus on a first come first serve basis.

- **Technology**

- **Fully fund state required** or state recommended cybersecurity technologies, including NDR solutions, and provide additional **dedicated funding** for qualified cybersecurity personnel



# What our Teachers have to say...

**The message from staff is consistent:** *competitively compensate the people doing the work, adequately fund the services and mandates required of public schools, provide greater support for Special Education, and give educators more time and flexibility to focus on students.*



# **Board Discussion on District Legislative Priorities**

