

2026 DENTON ISD Legislative Priorities

Board of Trustees Presentation

Stop Wasteful Mandates

Teacher & Staff Salaries

Safety & Security

Special Education

Limit TEA Authority





“A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.”

The Texas Constitution

Article 7, Section 1

THE FUNDING REALITY

Statewide growth in identifiable
basic costs, FY 2020 to FY 2025

COST GROWTH **\$2.72B** vs. NEW HB 2 FUNDING **\$575.7M**

THE ALLOTMENT
COVERS 21% OF THE
INCREASE

Denton ISD growth in
identifiable basic costs, FY 2020
to FY 2025

COST GROWTH **\$12.5M** vs. NEW HB 2 FUNDING **\$3.5M**

THE ALLOTMENT
COVERS 27.8% OF THE
INCREASE

PER-STUDENT COMPARISON

\$478

cost increase

compared with

\$106

new funding

Selected gaps are already measured in millions.

2024–25 selected General Fund spending less selected state allotment

\$19.5M Special education + dyslexia

\$7.1M Transportation

\$3.9M Early education

\$2.6M Security



Eliminate State-Created Bureaucracy That Wastes Taxpayer Money

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Require full state funding before any new mandate takes effect. Districts cannot absorb costs for programs the state requires but refuses to fund.

REDUNDANT REPORTING

Repeal duplicative state data-reporting requirements that consume staff time without improving outcomes for a single student.

COMPLIANCE OVERHEAD

Reform procurement and compliance rules that force districts to spend more on paperwork and legal review than on instruction.

NO-IMPACT PROGRAMS

End state-mandated programs with no demonstrated link to student learning. Every mandate must be justified by evidence, not tradition.

UNACCOUNTABLE RULEMAKING

Require a cost-benefit analysis for any TEA rule that imposes costs on districts, with legislative review before implementation.

LOCAL CONTROL RESTORED

Return authority over staffing, curriculum, and operations to locally elected boards — most accountable to taxpayers.

PEOPLE & ACCOUNTABILITY



Teacher & Staff Compensation

- Continue and build on recent teacher pay raises — extend increases to administrators responsible for carrying out state mandates and to all support staff
- Compensation gains must be recurring and built into base pay, not one-time stipends that disappear the following year
- Dollars freed from wasteful mandates should flow directly to employee compensation at every level
- Support structures that reward retention and recognize years of service



Limit TEA Authority

TEA HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE OVER THE LAST DECADE

- Legislature must exercise greater oversight over this large and growing agency
- Establish statutory limits on TEA's authority to issue rules carrying the force of law without legislative approval
- Require legislative sign-off on any TEA rule that imposes costs on districts or overrides locally elected boards
- Sunset agency rules on a regular cycle — unjustified rules should be automatically repealed

CAMPUS SAFETY & STUDENT SERVICES



Safety & Security Funding

- Close the gap between state-mandated security requirements and actual state funding — the state cannot require safety measures it refuses to pay for
- Provide dedicated, recurring appropriations — not one-time grants — for campus safety infrastructure and personnel
- Fully fund required armed security and campus safety officer roles without shifting costs to local taxpayers



Special Education Funding

- Fully fund special education services — forcing districts to absorb these costs locally is an unfunded mandate that harms students
- Reform the Weighted Average Daily Attendance formula to reflect actual service delivery costs for every qualifying student
- Ensure state funding keeps pace with growing student need and the true cost of delivering mandated services

OUR PRIORITIES. ONE MESSAGE.

Less Bureaucracy. More Classrooms.

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