Strengthening Texas' Workforce Through Sustainable Investment in Public Education

Legislative Priorities for Sustainable State Investment

Investing in public education is investing in Texas' future workforce. Public schools develop the employees, entrepreneurs, military personnel, healthcare professionals, skilled trades workers, and community leaders who drive Texas' economy. Gregory-Portland ISD supports sustainable state investments that prepare students for success while ensuring school districts have the resources necessary to meet growing expectations and support the long-term economic vitality of Texas communities.

Priority 1: Modernize School Funding

- Increase the Basic Allotment and index it to inflation.
- Fully fund the Additional Basic Cost (ABC) allotment.
- Modernize school funding formulas to reflect actual costs.
- Fund students based on enrollment rather than attendance.

Message: A modern workforce requires a sustainable and modern school finance system.

Priority 2: Fully Fund State Expectations

- Fully fund special education services.
- Fully fund school safety requirements.
- Fully fund transportation and Pre-K.
- Fully fund all state-mandated programs.
- Close the gap between state requirements and state funding.

Message: If Texas requires it, Texas should fund it.

Priority 3: Strengthen the Educator Workforce

- Increase compensation opportunities for all employees.
- Provide meaningful TRS support and retiree COLAs.

- Address rising employee healthcare costs.

Message: Students succeed when schools can attract and retain exceptional educators and staff.

Priority 4: Preserve Resources for Students

- Utilize recapture to supplement state funding rather than supplant it.
- Increase transparency in public school finance.
- Address escalating insurance costs.
- Ensure state funding keeps pace with requirements.

Message: Sustainable finances allow districts to focus resources on students.

Texas' economic future depends on the strength of its public schools. Gregory-Portland ISD supports sustainable state investments that prepare students for success, strengthen the workforce pipeline, and ensure every community has access to a high-quality public education system.

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When we develop the companion data pages, we can organize them around the workforce story rather than the finance story.

For example:

Workforce Development Requires Modern Funding

- BA purchasing power decline
- ADA vs enrollment

Workforce Development Requires Meeting State Expectations

- Safety funding gap
- SPED funding gap
- Transportation funding gap

For number 2, this simple chart:

Area	State Funding	Actual Cost	Gap
Safety	$X	$X	$X
SPED	$X	$X	$X
Transportation	$X	$X	$X

Workforce Development Requires Great Employees

- Compensation comparisons
- Healthcare costs
- TRS impacts

Workforce Development Requires Sustainable Resources

- Recapture
- Insurance
- Local tax dollar flow

Every chart, every graph, and every piece of data ties back to the same overarching message:

Public education is Texas' workforce development system, and sustainable state investment is necessary to maintain that system.