

Approval of Revised Legislative Priorities in Preparation of the 89th Legislative Session

December 10, 2024

SUMMARY:

This item requests the addition of Chapter 37 to the Board's legislative priorities as discussed to date in preparation of the 89th Legislative Session.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

Legislative priorities were discussed at the August 13, 2024 Board meeting. They have been updated to support and reflect the Board of Trustees and District mission of "Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community." The Board of Trustees approved two main priorities: Adequate Funding and Reasonable Accountability. This item seeks to add Chapter 37 to the priorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Our District's mission is measured by the Super Six outcomes:

1. Students will graduate college, career, and/or military ready;
2. Students will be engaged in extra/co-curricular activities;
3. Students will demonstrate evidence of mastery of Algebra I by the end of 9th grade;
4. Staff members are highly engaged;
5. Families and our communities are highly engaged; and
6. Students will demonstrate evidence of reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

In pursuit of these outcomes, we will advocate for legislation that will support our students and public education in Texas.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

None

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Travel and related expenses may be involved in scheduling relative meetings with elected officials in representing the Districts interests.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Legislative expansion of Chapter 37 over time has led to an erosion of local control over school discipline.
- Texas Education Agency interpretation and enforcement of ambiguous language in Chapter 37 leads to agency lawmaking inconsistent with specified legislative intent.
- Schools must be provided the ability to ensure that disruptive students are not permitted to continuously disrupt the learning of other students or risk the safety of teachers or other students.
- Parents have significant rights regarding the education of their children. With all rights, however, come corresponding responsibilities, and as partners in the education process parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children are participating productively in the educational system.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternative actions are proposed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends approval of adding Chapter 37 to the existing legislative priorities and supports the Board of Trustees and the District's efforts to advocate for our students and public education in Texas in the 89th Legislative Session.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Deron Robinson, General Counsel