

Board Report Agenda Item

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

June 8, 2021

Legislative Updates from the 87th Legislative Session

BOARD GOALS

TEACHING & LEARNING:

- develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority
- advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates
- cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments supporting all students
- establishing high expectations with a curriculum fostering inquiry, critical thinking, civic responsibility and exemplary citizenship
- cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district
- incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership
- foster and support an advanced digital learning environment
- establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors

CULTURE & CLIMATE:

- honor the dedication and professionalism of all staff
- celebrate, respect, and promote the value of diversity in our Denton ISD Community
- support a working environment ensuring open and transparent communication
- establish high expectations for success
- instill in students a love of lifelong learning
- foster a positive, welcoming environment encouraging parent and community partnerships
- promote health, wellness and emotional well-being
- effectively communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community

GROWTH & MANAGEMENT:

- recruit, employ and retain high quality teachers
 - remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
 - work with the community in planning and facility development
 - utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks
 - adjust policies and procedures to address rapid growth and changing demographics, nurturing our strong sense of community
 - demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources
 - provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal and regulatory requirements.
 - encourage teachers and staff to pursue advanced degrees
 - pursue energy efficiency and conservation principles -
 - develop a budget focused on student and professional learning
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- maintain a diverse workforce

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- support college, career, military and life readiness
- engage students in extracurricular clubs and organizations
- Advocate for public education across the state and nation
- develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide updates and resources to the Board of Trustees regarding the 87th Legislative Session.

Objectives:

This report includes the following updates and resources:

- TASA Governmental Relations: Capitol Watch Alert
 - **Virtual School Bill Fails to Become Law**
[HB 1468](#) by Rep. Keith Bell died on the House calendar after a quorum was broken prior to debate on the bill. It would have allowed school districts to receive full funding for providing full-time virtual instruction to their students.
 - **HB 3 “Cleanup” Bill Finally Passes**
HB 1525 by Rep. Dan Huberty finally passed both chambers. What started out as a “cleanup” bill from the passage of HB 3 in 2019 ended up becoming a 64-page bill covering school finance and other public education matters. The bill is now on its way to the governor’s desk. [See a list of highlights from the bill as finally passed.](#)
 - **More Education Bills Passed by the 87th Texas Legislature**
Several education-related bills have already been signed by Gov. Greg Abbott, while a variety of others have been sent to him for signature (updated through June 1). [See the updated list.](#)
- ESSER Federal Funds Update
- Opportunity for open discussion of additional information and resources from the Board of Trustees in relation to the 87th Legislative Session
 - Additional resources:
 - [Texas Tribune](#)
 - [Texas Legislature Online](#)
 - Association of Texas Professional Educators: [2020 – 21 Legislative Program](#)
 - Texas PTA: <https://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities>

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- Texas Association of School Administrators: <https://tasanet.org/advocacy/tasa-legislative-priorities/>
- Texas Association of School Boards: [TASB 2020-2022 Advocacy Agenda Priorities](#)
- Texas Association of Secondary School Principals: <https://www.tassp.org/legislative-updates>
- Raise Your Hand Texas: <https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy/2021-legislative-priorities/>
- Texas School Coalition: <https://www.txsc.org/about/priorities/>
- North Texas Commission: <https://www.ntc-dfw.org/advocate>

Operational Impact:

Operational impact should be minimal; however, travel and related expenses may be involved in scheduling relative meetings with elected officials in representing the State & Federal Relations Committee or the Denton ISD Legislative Advisory Committee.

Results:

Advantages:

Utilizing various formats to communicate the District's legislative priorities and alignment to our *guiding statements of outcomes* allows the DISD learning organization to articulate the value of our legislative priorities in realizing our stated outcomes. Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our elected officials may have significant impact to policies directly related to public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

Disadvantages:

None noted.

Other Options:

None noted.