



# MARBLE FALLS

Independent School District

**Meeting Date:**

**Meeting Type:**

**LOVE & INSPIRE**

Marble Falls ISD has an unyielding commitment to love every child and inspire them to achieve their fullest potential.



# MARBLE FALLS

Independent School District

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 89TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Marble Falls ISD Board of Trustees has identified several priorities for the 89th Legislature. With an unyielding commitment to love every child and inspire them to achieve their fullest potential, Marble Falls ISD will focus on the following legislative priorities:

#### SCHOOL FUNDING

The basic allotment has not increased since 2019, even though the Consumer Price Index has increased 19.5% and funding has not been adjusted for inflation. Rising student needs and unfunded state mandates place added pressures on schools.

We support:

- Increasing the basic allotment on an inflation index and bringing per-pupil funding in Texas to the national average. Additional investment in the Basic Allotment can also help reduce the growth of recapture while providing more dollars to educate students in all Texas public schools.
- Funding based on enrollment, not attendance.
- Increased funding for special education, with allocations based on a service model rather than attendance.
- Continue compressing the M&O tax rate in order to decrease the state's reliance on Chapter 49 ("Robin Hood") recapture dollars.
- Continue to reform Chapter 49 of the Texas Education Code ("Robin Hood") to increase state funding for all school districts and decrease the State's reliance on recapture dollars. Further, all recapture dollars should be spent on education, ending the practice of the state supplanting its investment in education with recapture dollars.
- Funding universal, full-day Pre-K 4.
- Funding instructional materials at a sustainable level, with no financial incentives tied to state-developed materials, preserving local control.

We oppose:

- Unfunded or underfunded state mandates: Any law requiring action by school districts, such as securing cell phones in classrooms, must include adequate funding to implement these mandates (e.g., for cell phone storage options like Yondr pouches).

#### TEACHER RETENTION & STAFFING SHORTAGES

Marble Falls ISD faces staffing shortages and struggles with teacher retention due to salaries, healthcare costs, and regional cost-of-living pressures.

We support:

- Funding to address inflation and geographic cost-of-living differences.
- Increased state support for TRSActiveCare and TRS-Care healthcare costs.
- Flexible funding and incentives for teacher recruitment and retention.
- Fully funding the Teacher Retirement System with inflation adjustments and maintaining the defined-benefit pension plan.
- Streamlining certification to address shortages in Bilingual and Special Education.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

We support:

- Equalizing accountability standards-- academically and financially-- for all educational entities that receive public funds.
- Implementing measures to verify that homeschooled students are actively engaged in an educational program, ensuring they receive a genuine education and are not left out of the learning process.
- Reducing the number of mandated assessments to only those required by federal law.

We oppose:

- Any program that diverts public tax dollars to non-public educational institutions.

#### LOCAL CONTROL

Excessive state regulations have increased workload and costs for local districts without added benefit to students.

We support:

- Restoring local control, once a hallmark of Texas.
- Allowing local control of instructional material selection without state financial influence.

We oppose:

- Over-burdensome state requirements that lack clarity and hinder local governance.

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