

Lewisville ISD Advocacy Plan



Introductory Statement

The Lewisville ISD Board of Trustees believes our role and duty is to advocate on behalf of the 48,000 students and 6,000 staff members to promote traditional public education for the benefit of all 13 communities we serve. Collaborating with parents, staff, community groups, and other stakeholders, the District will identify legislative agenda goals and develop supporting collateral materials to inform the Denton County delegation for the 89th Legislature. We believe by advocating together for positive change, we create an environment to empower students, support educators, and strengthen the entire community.

Vision, Mission, Beliefs and Goals

LISD Vision:

All students are confident, equipped with the knowledge and skills to thrive and adapt for their future.

LISD Mission:

Engaging and Inspiring Learners and Leaders

LISD Belief Statements:

- Students' needs are the center of our learning community.
- Education is the shared responsibility of students, staff, and community.
- High quality staff are the heart of a culture of learning.
- A safe and nurturing environment is essential for a sense of well-being.
- Continuous improvement informs and inspires future growth.
- Students are more than a test score.

Long Range Plan Goals:



Goal 1: Student Learning

Engage students through relevant instruction and assessment sparking curiosity and critical thinking, meeting individual academic needs as they impact their world now and in the future.



Goal 2: Student Experience

Create safe, engaging environments where students experience a sense of belonging and wellbeing, and are challenged by learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.



Goal 3: Resource Stewardship

Manage resources in a fiscally responsible way as stewards of our community's time, talent, and dollars.



Goal 4: Resource Stewardship

Recruit, retain, and develop the talents of dedicated teachers and staff to engage and inspire learners and leaders

Goal 5: Community Engagement

Build ONELISD, a connected culture of community engagement and purposeful communications

Issue - School Funding

Raising the Basic Allotment

(Belief: Students needs are the center of our learning community; high quality staff are the heart of a culture of learning)

- Reduces recapture
- Puts more money in Classroom
- Support student Staff Mental Health
- Unfunded Mandates –
- Teacher Shortages
- Class Sizes
- Teacher Pay
- More program choice



Steps for Success

- Empowering our community to advocate and communicate with our elected officials *(Belief: Build OneLISD, a connected culture of community engagement and purposeful communications)*
- Getting out the Vote and activating people to vote *(Belief: Education is the shared responsibility of students, staff, and community)*
- Positive and productive relationships with elected delegation and their staff members *(Belief: Education is the shared responsibility of students staff and community; social contract of public education)*
- Education to be owned by our community for stability *(Belief: Education is the shared responsibility of students staff and community)*

Summary

In Lewisville ISD, as a Board, we firmly believe that education is a shared responsibility among students, staff, and the community. We recognize the importance of engaging with ALL groups and stakeholders, ensuring that a multitude of diverse perspectives are represented and heard.

Local control and accountability are the cornerstones of our community, and we are dedicated to ensure that our decisions reflect the needs and values of those we serve. Building strong, meaningful relationships with community members is vital for the development and sustenance of robust public schools.

We understand that local issues often require tailored solutions. As such, we are committed to mobilizing our community to advocate for changes that directly impact their schools and neighborhoods. Trustees are integral to this process, serving all students with a strong understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that exist within our communities.

Our advocacy plan is a living document, one that evolves with the community's needs and aspirations. It is a call to action for every member of our district to participate actively in shaping the future of education in Lewisville ISD. Together, we can ensure that our schools remain a place of growth, learning, and success for EVERY student we have the privilege to serve.

Our objective is to serve as the foremost champions of public education. As stewards of the public trust, it is incumbent upon us, as Trustees, to engage with other local elected officials and state legislators advocating for the interests of our community. It is our duty to inform them comprehensively. It is at this level that we must advocate for adequate and equitable funding for public schools. Let us work collaboratively with state legislators and policymakers to secure the resources necessary to empower our students and enhance their educational experience.

Calendar for Advocacy



Y1 Q1: *August - October 2024*

- Launch advocacy campaign focusing on raising the Basic Allotment.
- Begin community education initiatives for effective communication with elected officials.
- Using the Ambassador and Key Communicator Committee members
- Host role play sessions to help them be comfortable speaking on the subjects.
- Create bullet point note cards with facts about the district's finances.
- Host Forum for All LISD candidates in November – Find non partisan partner to cohost (League of Women Voters) needs to get on the calendar in May
- Host workshops on advocacy and the importance of local control and accountability invite ALL LISD committee members, attend those meetings
- The Board create or sign onto legislation in the Texas House and Senate
- Promote 'Get Out the Vote' campaigns and voter registration drives.
- Intensify 'Get Out the Vote' efforts ahead of elections.

Y1 Q2: *Nov. 2024 - Jan. 2025*

- Develop and continue developing relationships with newly and seasoned elected officials and their staff members.
- Invite them to a campus event in their District – To make a better impact only invite one Legislator to campus - so it is their Day.
- Community education sessions on the upcoming Legislative Session and LISD's priorities.
- Encourage local meetings with Legislators and Congressmen in their local offices.
- Mid-year review of advocacy efforts by the Board and adjust strategies as needed.
- Look at partner groups Legislative priorities and see where we can align and join forces.
- In odd year Texas Legislature in Session
 - Identify those on Education Committee
 - Offer LISD as a resource to all representatives both Federal and State.
 - Take opportunities to publicly celebrate all those for being sworn in and winning their elections.
- Engage with community groups and committee members with listening circles to give feedback on progress and adjustments as needed.
- Take advantage of opportunities to engage with Legislators and Congressmen to advocate for priorities and give information on pending legislation.
- Partner with advocacy Groups to visit Austin

Y1 Q3: *February - April 2025*

- Identify Legislation that has traction in Committees and coach local community members to send in written testimony as well as support those willing to go down to Austin and testify in person.
- Create both a phone and letter writing campaign in regard to legislation that aligns with LISD priorities.
- Intensify efforts in regard to pending Legislation.
- Create Information slides for the public to understand how specific legislation will affect them.
- Advocate for tailored solutions to local issues during legislative sessions.
- Engage committee members to reach out to educate and advocate for priorities.
- Create celebration moments for small and large wins
- Maintain the relationships built with staff and the representative with check ins and offers of support or more information.
- Stay focused on priorities.

Y1 Q4: *May-July 2025*

- Celebrate successes and recognize community advocates.
- Reflect on passed legislation.
- Create and Share Legislative Priorities in alignment with the Cornerstones.
- Legislative priorities agreed on at Board Retreat

YEAR 2

Calendar for Advocacy

YEAR 2

Y2 Q1:

August - October 2025

- Reflect and focus on previous advocacy
- Collaborate with a Legislator to create legislation in line with priorities.
- Host feedback sessions with committee members ensure that all communities are heard.
- Back-to-school advocacy push, emphasizing the shared responsibility of education and community involvement.
- Create opportunities for elected officials on campuses to see the work going on and perhaps the effects of some passed legislation.
- Promote 'Get Out the Vote' campaigns and voter registration drives. #BetheONEwhoVOTES
- Continue the education piece regarding passed legislation both celebrations and challenges for the district.

Y2 Q2:

Nov. 2025 - Jan. 2026

- Promote public education through community ambassadors and committee members.
- Prepare for upcoming primary elections and reinforce the importance of voting.
- Reflect on advocacy progress and plan for the upcoming proposed legislation by the district.

Y2 Q3:

February - April 2026

- Promote 'Get Out the Vote' campaigns and voter registration drives.
- Hosting a Forum with other local ISDs focused on Education issues.
- Promote 'Get Out the Vote' campaigns and voter registration drives.
- Engage in promoting public education priorities.
- Intensify 'Get Out the Vote' efforts ahead of elections.
- Invite winners of primaries to schools to build relationships as well as share challenges and celebrations.
- Engage with committee members and stakeholders to discuss the outcomes of primaries and ask for them to share their perspectives with candidates.

Y2 Q4:

May-July 2026

- Evaluate the impact of advocacy on local elections and legislation.
- Year-end review and setting the stage for continued advocacy
- Create 2 year plan; Added to the Addendum of Board Operating Procedures

