

**Aledo Independent School District  
Legislative Priorities  
88th Texas Legislative Session**

**Protect local control, including the rights of local parents and citizens.**

We advocate that the state:

- Recognize that each community and its expectations, priorities, and needs are unique and that continued and further state-led restrictions and requirements of local public community schools take away the rights of local parents and citizens
- Leave decisions about the operations of community public schools to the discretion of parents and citizens of a local community through their locally-elected boards of trustees
- Maintain the ability of all local governments to hold elections on the two uniform election dates in May and November
- Revise current required ballot language to increase clarity and transparency for voters
- Reauthorize the ability and discretion of local governments, including school districts, to engage in economic incentive agreements in an effort to meet local economic development needs

We oppose:

- Measures that erode the decision making authority of local, citizen-elected school boards in the operation of local public schools
- Measures that centralize state control of local public schools in the Texas Education Agency or Commissioner of Education
- State takeover of local instructional decisions through implementation of a state-wide and state-operated instructional system
- Further state regulations of how elected school board trustees shall conduct business and govern
- State interference in local elections, including measures that further restrict election dates and require confusing ballot language
- Any measure that censors local community voice by prohibiting locally-elected officials to associate and collaborate to share the needs of a community's children with the Texas Legislature, state agencies, and the executive branch

**Protect and increase public school funding.**

We advocate that the state:

- Increase per pupil funding in recognition of the impact of rising costs and inflation on the operation of our schools and keeping qualified teachers in our classrooms
- Protect sustainable state funding for House Bill 3
- Ensure that no school district faces a loss of funding due to the expiration of the Formula Transition Grant

- Fund schools based on student enrollment/membership (like the vast majority of states), rather than attendance
- Increase the School Safety Allotment (currently only \$9.75 per student) to address any current and additional state requirements and authorize local districts to expend such funds based upon local community needs, expectations, and priorities
- Increase capacity of the Fast Growth Allotment to acknowledge the growing statewide need and reduce proration
- Increase capacity of the New Instructional Facility Allotment (NIFA) to meet its intended use to support the increased operational costs of rapidly growing school districts rather than diverting the funding to other programs

**Require accountability and transparency to Texans for the use of local and state tax dollars.**

We advocate that the state:

- Require that the use of tax dollars for public education is governed by locally-elected boards of trustees so that the expectations and priorities of local parents and citizens are represented in decisions
- Invest state dollars equitably and only on public schools that are held to the same financial accountability and transparency rules as traditional public schools
- Rework how new charters are granted and how charters are permitted to expand by requiring clear financial management requirements and making traditional public school funding per student equal to that sent to charter schools

We oppose:

- The state's use of increases in local property values to fund state programs other than education
- The privatization of public schools and any measures that propose private school vouchers in any form
- Any effort to divert local property tax revenues for non-public education purposes

**Support Texas public school students and educators and permit local parents and citizens to hold their public schools accountable.**

We advocate that the state:

- Implement measure that support recruitment and retention of the public school workforce, increasing flexibility and decreasing the rigid requirements of state-developed programs
- Permit local discretion and flexibility in instructional planning and implementation for accelerated learning by revising and/or repealing the one-size fits all requirements of HB 4545
- Permit school accountability systems to be crafted by the local community and constructed of measures of student success that reflect the local values and priorities of our community

- deemphasize performance on a standardized test that a child takes on one day, prohibiting such performance to serve as the primary indicator of success