

BELLVILLE ISD - SEALY ISD

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & PRIORITIES

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of liberties and rights of the people, - provide adequate funding and support for our Texas public schools.

- Increase per-pupil funding in the basic allotment which thereby accomplishes the aims of providing increased funding for: Teacher Salaries, Special Education, and Safety & Security;
- Incorporate an inflation index specific to the basic allotment to ensure educators are given regular cost of living raises;
- Increase Small/Mid-sized Allotments to support districts' abilities to: 1) provide students with equitable educational opportunities, and 2) recruit and retain skilled educators;
- Create hold-harmless provisions for districts specific to the outcome of counties' Property Values Studies.
- Increase local discretion in the design components of the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

ACADEMICS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Advocate for a fair and transparent accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes tests as a measure of learning and student success.

- Increase funding for the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) to ensure districts can provide adequate technology and instructional materials to meet high standards for student learning;
- Transition the present A-F accountability system to mirror provisions established in HB 22 (2017) for the establishment of Local Accountability Systems inclusive of measures that are meaningful to students, parents, teachers, and communities.
- Reduce standardized testing requirements and promote District discretion in the selection of appropriate norms-referenced assessments to monitor student growth and academic achievement.

TEXAS CONSTITUTION

A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

LOCAL CONTROL

Local public schools are the center of rural communities. Ensure locally elected school boards maintain the power and duty to govern their respective school districts responsive to their communities.

- Maintain the Board's authority to establish enrollment requirements based on residency;
- Support Board's authority to maintain standards of enrollment for participation in District courses, programs, or extracurricular activities;
- Protect local decision making through Districts of Innovation in their current form;
- Support local-level management of student behaviors such as dress code, vaping, cell phone usage, and academic interventions.

FAIR & TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS

Voting is a powerful expression of values and vital to our democratic society. Protect the value of individuals' casting their vote by:

- Protecting District's rights to communicate facts-based information about school-related elections;
- Promote participation in the election process by maintaining provisions for county-wide polling locations;
- Maintain standards of a simple majority for local elections as is the standard for state-level elections;
- Maintain the District's rights to present election proposals to voters based on what is needed and when.

EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Promote universal standards for public fiscal transparency and academic accountability for any educational organization receiving public funds.

- Establish equitable standards and metrics for academic accountability for all educational entities receiving public funds;
- Ensure all educational organizations receiving public funds have universal standards for public fiscal transparency;
- Educational funds should be provided to educational entities and protected from being used as a means for individual economic gain void of the standards outlined above.