

SBISD Legislative Priorities (Draft Outline - Updated)

89th Legislative Session - 2025

Preamble

During the 89th Legislative Session, Spring Branch ISD is committed to advocating and supporting legislative priorities that will allow SBISD to provide the highest quality of educational and support services that residents of our community expect. We believe that legislative actions that increase funding for public education, enhance opportunities for recruitment and retention of qualified teachers, promote safety, health and wellness, provide meaningful assessments, and protect local control will allow SBISD to be an excellent choice for parents seeking the best educational experience for their children.

Full Funding for Public Education

1. Increase basic allotment
2. Provide inflation adjustment for basic allotment
3. Funding based on enrollment instead of average daily attendance
4. Fully fund all requirements/eliminate unfunded mandates
5. Provide full credit for local optional homestead exemptions
6. Restore early recapture payment discount
7. Increase education allotments for economically disadvantaged, special education, English learners, gifted and talented, early education, and CTE students
8. Expand funding for full day Pre-K-3 program
9. Continued support for instructional materials through IMAT funding

Safety, Security, Mental Health & Wellness

1. Prioritize and increase per student and per campus allotment for safety, security, and mental health supports
2. Support local governance and control of school finances to meet student and staff needs related to safety, security, and student discipline

Parental and Local Control

1. Support legislation that modifies the Discipline Code (TEC Chapter 37) to allow local school districts to more effectively handle student discipline
2. Protect and expand the local control provided to Boards of Trustees to reflect the interests and needs of the local community
3. Protect district control of instructional materials and resources that provide the highest quality of education and best fit the needs and the recommendations of the local committees.

Assessments and Accountability

1. Support meaningful assessments that reduces emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing and TEA-driven formative testing
2. Ensure State's rating system is meaningful by using adequate descriptive terms for campus and district performance
3. Advocate for TEA to provide any changes or adjustments in the accountability system prior to June 1
4. Ensure access to audio and writing responses from TELPAS allowing 10 working days for review and possible submission of rescore requests
5. Ensure access to constructed responses/essays from STAAR allowing 10 working days for review and possible submission of rescore requests
6. Advocate for the requirement for an independent third party contractor to conduct rescore requests

Teacher Retention and Recruitment

1. Prioritize funding and incentives for teacher recruitment and retention
2. Fund hiring incentives for critical shortage areas such as SPED, bilingual, math, and science
3. Remove/reduce restrictions on hiring TRS retirees to cover staff shortages
4. Increase State's health insurance contributions
5. Support and protect TRS pension system as a defined benefit plan