



ACTION:

2024-2025

LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITIES



PURPOSE

Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action regarding the Belton ISD Legislative Priorities for the 89th Texas Legislative Session.



IV. ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

TEA Framework for School Board Development

THE BOARD:

PROMOTES THE VISION AND ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY IN DEVELOPING AND FULFILLING THE VISION.

THE BOARD:

ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE BOARD:

- Demonstrates its commitment to, and advocates on behalf of, the shared vision and goals by clearly communicating them to the superintendent, staff, and community
- Regularly reports district progress to families and the community, which could include an online dashboard for the community
- Ensures multiple forms of two-way communication will be used to engage, empower, and connect students, families, staff, media, and community with the district
- Builds collaborative relationships and partnerships with families and community, business, nonprofit, higher-education, education support organizations, and governmental leaders to influence and expand educational opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of students
- **Recognizes the respective roles of and provides input and feedback to the legislature**, State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency to ensure maximum effectiveness and benefit to Texas schoolchildren
- Promotes school board service by educating the community about the role of a school board and encouraging leadership opportunities within the community

PROCESS & TIMELINE

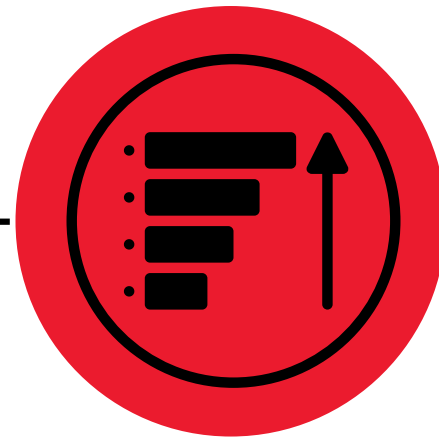
2024 - 2025



LISTENING CIRCLES

SEPTEMBER

- 06 - PTO/PTA Council
- 12 - DWEIC
- 18 - Campus Administrators
- 18 - City Leaders (Temple & Belton)
- 19 - Faith-Based Leaders
- 20 - Non-profit Partners
- 23 - Long Range Facilities Planning Team



ADOPT PRIORITIES

OCTOBER

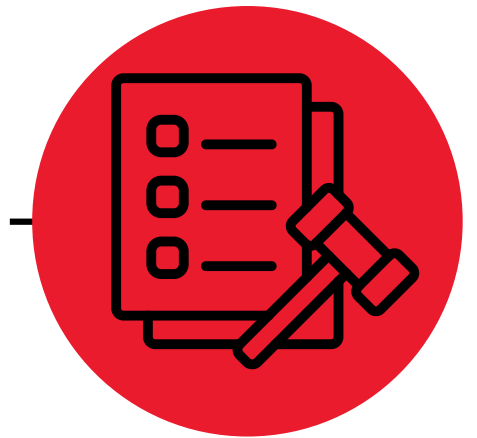
- 01 - Policy Committee
- 21 - Regular Board Meeting



WORK WITH LEGISLATORS & COMMUNITY

NOV. - DEC.

- 01 - Communicate priorities (all stakeholders)
- 05 - Election Day
- 11 - First day of bill filing



89th LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JAN. 14 - JUN. 2

Track bills filed that impact public education & work with legislators to understand how they impact on our priorities.
March 14 - last day to file



OVERVIEW

These legislative priorities were drafted based on input from the Belton ISD community through listening circles with parents, city leaders, spiritual leaders, non-profit leaders, parents, campus administrators, staff, and board members.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our children are worth the cost.



Texas ranks 42nd in the nation when it comes to per student funding for public education. Serving the needs of a large, diverse student population is costly. Parents and community members rely on our public schools to provide high-quality education and ensure a bright future for each and every student. Now is the time to invest in learning experiences that empower students to thrive in future careers while also addressing the growing mental health concerns in our society.

"The essence of public school is helping kids see their potential, to see dreams they have never seen before, and to pull kids out of generational poverty."

- BISD parent

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the basic allotment to account for inflation
- Calculate funding based on enrollment
- Expand CTE program funding to include elementary
- Increase funding for special education programs
- Fund full-day Pre-K
- Increase safety allotment & mental health supports

TEACHER & STAFF EFFICACY



**When we support our teachers and staff,
we support our children's future.**

High-quality teachers and staff are strongly linked to student achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success. As the profession faces unprecedented shortages, we must support retention, recruitment and development practices that strengthen the education workforce.

"Our teachers and personnel are not just doing this for a job. It's a calling as much as a pastor is called. It is a deep and holy calling, and legislators need to know that. They (teachers) certainly don't get rich doing it, and they perform under tremendous pressure. They aren't first responders, but they are responders who shape our future."

- Local community faith-based leader

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase compensation
- Reduce healthcare costs
- Provide differentiated compensation incentives for high-needs areas (Special Education, Bilingual, etc.)
- Provide multiple state-supported instructional resource options

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

It's time to measure what matters most.



The purpose of the accountability system is to inform the public but our current system places too much emphasis on standardized testing. Students and schools are so much more than just one test on one day and our community deserves an accountability system that more accurately reflects the many factors that contribute to a quality education.

*"I wish our legislators would use a tool to measure success that is more broad and not one test. Capture the whole story, not a slice of it."
- BISD PTO Leader*

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand the scope of the state accountability system to include factors beyond STAAR test scores such as community engagement and financial reporting
- Ensure equal transparency and accountability for all public, private, and charter schools receiving public funds
- Modify required ballot language for bond elections



DISCUSSION

