

Denton ISD Legislative Priorities

88th Legislative Session



School Finance, Local Control, and Taxpayer Advocacy

The Denton ISD supports the following initiatives to reduce property taxes for local taxpayers and enhance student outcomes.

Property Tax Reduction:

- Restore the state's share of funding to 50% allowing for local property tax reduction.
- Restore funds for the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA).
- Restore funds for the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA).

Enhance Student Outcomes:

- Fund schools based on student enrollment rather than attendance.
- Increase the basic allotment to allow for inflation and index the basic allotment to adjust when inflation rises.
- Eliminate Unfunded Mandates.

The Denton ISD supports the following initiatives to enhance taxpayer input, promote transparency and eliminate big government redundancies.

Protect Taxpayers:

- End untruthful bond ballot language in order to promote truth in taxation and transparency.
- Ensure all taxpayers have a voice in Austin through public school advocates.
- Prioritize local control where transparency is greater and elected officials are held accountable.

Staff Recruitment and Retention

- Elevate the teaching profession by initiating a statewide campaign to support and advocate for the teaching profession.
- Provide state-funded benefits for educators like paid leave for new parents, reduced insurance premiums and deductibles, State Parks and Recreations or DMV benefits, etc.
- Provide pay incentives to recruit new teachers and retain veteran teachers that is separate and apart from the Teacher Incentive Allotment.
- Allow flexibility in certifications to allow districts to fill high-need openings.
- Suspend the TRS penalty for rehiring retired teachers.
- Provide state funding to compensate student teachers while working in school district classrooms.

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School Safety and Mental Health Resources

- Provide adequate funding to broaden mental health supports for students and adults.
- Increase the school safety allotment, place allotment in “Other Programs” for funding purposes so that funds are allocated to districts and not supplanted and allow local control for implementing safety measures.
- Increase outside resources for mental health, to allow schools to no longer be the primary resource for student mental health.

Meaningful Accountability

- Advocate against the use of a single summative test for accountability and develop a comprehensive method of measuring student progress and success by including broader, diversified data points and indicators which inform classroom instruction.
- Allow school districts to locally determine the parameters and methods for remediation for student who do not perform satisfactorily on state assessments.
- Allow students alternate methods, such as successful passage of national assessments, for students to complete matriculation and advancement through courses without penalizing school districts.
- Ensure accountability measures are meaningful and appropriate for each grade level.

Quality Pre-K Programs

- Advocate for fully funded pre-k either by formula or increase in early childhood allotment.
- Advocate for transportation funding for pre-k.
- Advocate for pre-k facility funding.

Charter School Accountability and Opposition to Vouchers

- Advocate for aligned and equal accountability measures compared to school district
- Advocate for more freedom for school districts to offer schools of choice and unconventional learning methods such as virtual learning
- Advocate against waste involved with two duplicate school systems.
- Advocate for school districts to receive the same basic allotment as charter schools