

Coppell ISD 2021 Legislative Agenda

Coppell ISD is using the district's Core Values of Great Teaching, Redefining Success, Authentic Relationships, and Collective Engagement as a filter to guide the district's input to the Texas Legislature.

1. School Funding

Core Value: Great Teaching, Collective Engagement and Authentic Relationships

With the State of Texas facing a likely financial hardship, CISD believes public education funding must remain a priority. CISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to:

- Maintain its commitment to fund House Bill 3 at the level it committed to in the 2019 legislative session;
- Equitably share the cost of education with local public school districts;
- Recognize the flexibility needed by and the additional costs incurred amid the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Protect local fund balances from being considered as solutions to state funding shortfalls in the 2021-2023 biennium, as many fiscally responsible school districts such as CISD, as identified through independent rating organizations, rely heavily upon fund balances to operate the first semester of school each year until local tax revenues are collected;
- Delay the implementation of new charters and expansions during this economic downturn to avoid cuts to public education;
- Reduce charter school state per-student funding to a level no greater than that of the school districts where they are located;

- Shift away from funding based on attendance tracking of “students in seats” to a 21st Century attendance model, as students may be out of their seats, as they engage in virtual instruction, Dual Credit instructions, or internships;
- Prevent any transfer of public education funds through the use of vouchers, savings accounts or tax credits to private entities, including an unrestrained expansion of virtual instruction by private corporations.

2. Local Control and Accountability

Core Values: Great Teaching, Redefining Success, Authentic Relationships and Collective Engagement

CISD believes our community should have local control and that accountability should rely more on community expectations and less on standardized tests. CISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to:

- Support a comprehensive, community-based accountability system reflecting the expectations of its families, community and local property taxpayers;
- Reduce state assessments by eliminating those not required by federal law, removing the high-stakes aspect of the system, reducing testing time and prohibiting standardized tests from serving as the primary indicator of district, school and/or student performance;
- Provide additional support for non high-stakes, diagnostic assessment alternatives, such as writing portfolios and adaptive exams;
- Allow school districts the flexibility to develop and deliver curriculum and instruction based on the district’s specific needs at

all times, including during a pandemic or natural disaster, whether face-to-face or distance learning best meets the needs of the district's students;

- Recognize that locally elected school trustees maintain all powers and duties to govern their respective school districts, if not otherwise outlined in statute, and that these rights should be preserved and protected from any state agency or other entity that would substitute its judgment for the lawful execution of these powers and duties by locally elected trustees;
- Preserve the right of public school boards to associate and collaborate with each other and to communicate the needs of their students and schools, both directly and through representation organizations, and with lawmakers.

3. Social and Emotional Learning

Core Values: Great Teaching, Redefining Success and Authentic Relationships

CISD believes in meeting the social and emotional needs of all students and employees in order for great teaching to occur and for our students to be successful in ways meaningful to them. CISD calls about the Texas Legislature to:

- Fund equitable social and emotional support services for students and staff, such as coping management skills, trauma-informed training, intervention support, de-escalation strategies and restorative practices, which would improve safety, security, and overall mental health;

- Embrace the CISD Core Value of Redefining Success, so that public college admissions and other standards rely less on grades and class ranks and include additional more meaningful assessments;
- Combat systemic racism by supporting diversity and cultural awareness initiatives through staff and student education; and restorative teaching and disciplinary practices that treat all students equally and focus on building relationships;

CISD's Legislative Agenda does not preclude the district from taking a position on potential legislation or other issues that affect the district.