

# TEMPLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS & PRIORITIES

During the 88<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature, Temple ISD will work with our elected officials and other associations and groups to support and/or initiate legislation to advocate for the following:

### **SAFETY ALLOTMENT**

Advocate for increased funding of the School Safety Allotment and local flexibility for school districts to work with their communities to adequately meet student and staff safety needs related to hardening of facilities, social and emotional support, training, and security personnel.

### **FUND SCHOOLS BASED ON TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT INSTEAD OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

School districts are currently funded based on the average daily attendance of students, which is less than the total student enrollment. School districts provide staff and materials accounting for every student enrolled whether they attend regularly or not, and the current funding structure provides insufficient revenue to school districts for the provision of basic educational services. Temple ISD supports the use of enrollment as the standard for school funding without reducing the basic allotment.

### **STATE ENDORSED LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

Advocate for the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers. The development of a local accountability system would include flexible measures that local communities value and receive official acknowledgement from the Texas Education Agency.

### **VOUCHERS**

Oppose any state plan that would use vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or any other means to divert public tax dollars to private entities, homeschooled students, or parents, with little or no academic or financial accountability or transparency to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.

### **TAX COMPRESSION WITH LOCAL DISCRETION**

In the event of tax compression, advocate for local discretion without spending restrictions to ensure that the needs of students, staff, and communities are met. Local discretion would include bond and tax ratification elections.