



PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Legislative Priorities

## 88th Legislative Session



### Priority #1 – EXPAND FUNDING FOR SAFETY & SECURITY, INCLUDING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Substantially increase school safety allotment with greater local control
- Provide a new allotment for mental health and wellness for students for prevention and early intervention
- Provide grant or state funding for infrastructure and capital projects based on local needs and local control to further harden school facilities

### Priority #2 – ADDRESS THE INEQUITIES OF RECAPTURE

- *All Revenue in Excess of Entitlement Funds* should flow directly into the basic allotment
- Provide a discount for school districts that make their recapture payment early in the spring
- Property tax bills should transparently reflect the amount of local property taxes being paid to the State in the form of recapture
- All funds collected through recapture must be used to fund traditional public education

### Priority #3 – ADEQUATELY FUND SCHOOLS

- Modify formulas to ensure greater equity in funding across districts, including:
  - Increase the basic allotment, adjusted annually for inflation
  - Base funding on student enrollment instead of percentage of attendance
  - Reincorporate the Cost of Education Index to account for the cost-of-living differences between regions in the state
  - Fully fund the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMA) that was recently reduced by approximately 60%
- Provide sufficient resources to attract and retain teachers including affordable healthcare and benefits
- Provide funding to promote growth in Texas' teaching workforce, including alternative teacher certification programs to address the growing teacher shortage in Texas.
- Provide full funding and expanded opportunities for virtual education in traditional public schools that choose to offer it
- Adjust the weights from the State to better align with actual expenses

- Oppose any and all efforts to divert public funds into private uses
- Limit the expansion process of for-profit entities in public education and require transparency and standardization in charter school operations
- Fully fund all unfunded mandates
- Convert two copper (Tier II Level II) pennies to two golden (Tier II Level I) pennies
- Allow local discretion rather than state-mandated program percentages
- Fully fund the Teacher Retirement System with adjustments for inflation
- Ensure alignment between Advanced Placement (AP) and two-year college courses and four-year universities to ensure students can transfer credits

## **Priority #4 – CREATE MEANINGFUL AND FAIR ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS**

- Advocate for an accountability system that does not lower a district's overall rating for a single underperforming campus
- Support an accountability system that offers a fair assessment of school district performance and an accurate accounting of holistic school quality where periodic system changes do not have an immediate impact on a district's accountability rating without a phase-in or hold harmless period and do not use accountability metrics for students no longer in the district.
- Expand indicators of achievement in the school accountability system to include recognition for advanced coursework, credit by examination, single and full-grade acceleration, and project-based learning opportunities
- Make modifications to HB 4545 to preserve intent but better apply necessary flexibility by:
  - Districts should have the ability to monitor student progress and adjust instructional plans accordingly
  - Students opting out of STAAR testing should have the opportunity to be reassessed at the beginning of the year to determine HB 4545 needs
- Advocate that the state student assessment program be limited to only those assessments required to meet ESSA (federal) requirements
- Oppose A – F campus and district ratings that oversimplify the complex work of schools and incentivize teaching to the test

## **Priority #5 – PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL TO FACE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY**

- Continue to encourage parental involvement in their children's education as reflected or amended in current policy
- Preserve the accountability and governance structure of locally elected school boards and administrations
- Continue to allow local control over local elections
- Preserve and expand District of Innovation flexibilities

*Approved by the Board on October 3, 2022*