



Plano ISD Advocacy Efforts for 87th Legislative Session

**Board Meeting
October 6, 2020**

Interim Charge 1: Oversee legislation passed in 86th Legislative Session

- HB3, which relates to public school finance and public education
 - Impact on recapture
 - Teacher pay increases
 - State share of school funding
 - Sustainability of HB3
- Public school accountability, assessment, interventions, and district-charter partnerships
 - Long-term COVID impact on student achievement
 - Modification of A-F system to mitigate unintended consequences for 20-21 by resetting cut scores due to loss of second administration of STAAR
 - Local discretion to identify students needing acceleration
 - High performing districts be allowed additional flexibility and local control of accountability systems

Interim Charge 1: Oversee legislation passed in 86th Legislative Session

- School district health & safety
 - Reduce unfunded mandates to repurpose funds to prioritize mental and physical health
 - Utilize resources to hire additional counselors, nurses and social workers
 - Prioritize social and emotional learning/curriculum for all grade levels
- Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium
 - Telehealth
 - Telebehavioral health
 - Virtual counseling

Interim Charge 2: Virtual Learning & Perceived Barriers

- Barrier 1: We are precluded from offering a comprehensive virtual school due to current funding restrictions
 - Legislative action needed to level the playing field for public school districts to offer comprehensive virtual learning to receive same full-day funding as private/charter schools
 - Remove limitation of three electronic courses during any school year
- Barrier 2: Digital inequities present ongoing challenges
 - Securing broadband access for all students/families every year
 - Replacement of **obsolete** devices requires continued support of matching funds provided through Operation Connectivity
 - Instructional Materials Allotment line item for device, hotspot and infrastructure procurement needed

Interim Charge 3: Special Education

Special Education Need #1

Resources necessary for the expansion of intensive behavioral and therapeutic services.

- INSPIRE Program Model:

Rationale for the Program/Benefit to the District - provide a safe educational environment to serve students with most significant special needs in order to stabilize with the goal to reintegrate back into school community

Program design:

- To serve students with significant therapeutic behavioral needs. Eligibility - number of students identified with Autism and Emotional Disturbance increased by 13% and 30%, respectively
- Decrease Code of Conduct Actions
- Decrease Need for Restraints
- Increased Workers Compensation Claims
- Cost for Program Staff - \$2,138,000
- Cost for Materials - \$52,798

Interim Charge 3: Special Education

- Initial and Re-evaluations
 - In response to Corrective Action Plan for the State, there is a substantial increase in the number of initial evaluations.
 - Students initially identified are now approaching three-year re-evaluation, creating increased demand for qualified evaluators. Previous grant only provided funding for initial evaluations.
 - Districts need additional funding to hire evaluators for students in need of three-year re-evaluations. More staff or contracted providers are needed to meet timelines based on the outcome of the Corrective Action Plan.

Interim Charge: COVID

- COVID safety in the Fall 2020 Semester: Classrooms, Labs & Cafeterias
- On-Campus COVID Testing
- Fall Athletics: Athlete safety, fan safety, event capacity for guests
- Projected enrollment and formula funding for 20-21
- Staff/faculty retention related to COVID
- State/federal COVID-related funds on already impacted budgets

Next Up:

- October 13 Superintendent's Legislative Summit, Georgetown, TX
- October 28 TASA Superintendent Advocacy Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- November 11 Texas School Coalition Legislative Planning Meeting (Virtual)
- November 11 North Texas Legislative Conference, Frisco, TX
- Nov/Dec Board Legislative Subcommittee meetings with elected officials

