

2014-15 Legislative Focus

LOUD
— AND —
CLEAR

Legislative Initiatives

Legislative issue platform reflecting district priorities

- ❑ **Oppose Vouchers**
 - ❑ The district opposes any program or initiatives that redirect public funds away from public schools.
- ❑ **Instructional calendar (local control)**
 - ❑ We have solicited support from our locally elected legislators to sponsor a bill recovering local control of school calendar features such as start date.
- ❑ **Early childhood and pre-kindergarten education (federal)**
 - ❑ Request legislative acknowledgment of the importance of early learning and fund full-day programming at the early childhood level.
- ❑ **Terminating Chapter 21 employee contracts upon felony conviction**
 - ❑ Empower district's to immediately terminate Chapter 21 employees upon felony conviction without delays due to statutory notification requirements.

Legislative Initiatives

Legislative issue platform reflecting district priorities

Funding issues

- ❑ Including off-campus instruction in the calculation of the weighted average daily attendance
 - ❑ Funding formula needs to acknowledge instructional delivery considering technology enhancements. Seat time should not be the only funding consideration.
- ❑ Update the Cost of Education Index (CEI)
 - ❑ CEI has not been updated since 1991
- ❑ Adjust the Equalized Wealth Level for Enrichment Taxes above the first 6 cents of enrichment tax effort
 - ❑ Has not been updated since 2006
- ❑ Increase level 2 enrichment (golden pennies) from 6 pennies to 8 pennies
 - ❑ Golden pennies are equalized to Austin ISD wealth level and are not subject to recapture
- ❑ Continue state funding for state mandated increase in district's contributions to Teacher Retirement System (TRS)- (state)
 - ❑ The state has issued an unfunded mandate to increase the district's cost in funding the retirement system. Lack of funding constitutes an unfunded mandate.
- ❑ Middle and High School Counselor Funding Allotment to address the need for increased counseling services from HB5
 - ❑ Pathway to graduation requirements as a result of HB5 have added requirements without additional resources to communicate the deep change in planning necessary for students and families.

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