



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

**P L A N O**  
Independent School District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PLANO ISD JOINS WITH OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PREVENT SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM FROM BEING DERAILED BY A NEW ROBIN HOOD SYSTEM**

**PLANO, TEXAS, May 8, 2019** – Plano ISD and other Texas districts collaborated on a letter to the Texas Legislative Conference Committee deliberating House Bill 3. The letter addresses the Senate’s proposal to calculate school funding using property values from the current year, rather than the existing practice of using prior year values. This collaboration is an extension of the work that Plano ISD and other school districts have put forth in order to provide information and input to legislators regarding school finance reform. Trustees and administrators have worked with peer districts, the business community, voters and legislators to maintain an inclusive and productive conversation surrounding public education funding.

This legislative session, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees prioritized comprehensive school finance reform, as well as property tax relief, and advocated that adding new money into the school funding formula was paramount. The House version of HB 3, dubbed “The Texas Plan for Transformational School Finance Reform,” was a big step in the right direction. However, districts across Texas are saying that the Senate’s proposal to use current-year values is not at all transformational and, in fact, would be devastating to school districts. The letter states:

“This change is not simply resetting a fiscal calendar. The reality is it becomes another mechanism for the state to collect local revenue. Shifting from prior-year to current-year values would substantially diminish, or in many cases, virtually eliminate any benefit that our school districts would otherwise receive from positive changes in the new formulas. In most cases it would cause significantly more harm than the current funding system. It is not a one-year adjustment. Moving to current-year values would cause local property tax growth to benefit the state instead of the local school district.”

The letter goes on to say that, ultimately, using current-year values creates an additional Robin Hood system that affects even more districts than those currently subject to recapture. Any school district that experiences property value growth will now be subject to another system of recapture that benefits the state’s budget. Additionally, using current-year values makes budgeting at both the district and state levels much more imprecise. Districts will be preparing budgets and spending funds before the State Comptroller’s Office has reviewed, audited and certified values to both school districts and the Texas Education Agency. Certified values are essential for accurately calculating a school district’s revenue.

The districts concluded their joint letter by reminding conferees of their common goal. “The goal of this session has been to solve many of the issues plaguing our school finance system and not create new burdens,” the letter stated. “Please ensure that the final version of HB 3 retains prior-year values.”

Signees of the letter to the Conference Committee include 58 school districts and 4 organizations:

Alamo Heights ISD	Ector County ISD	Lubbock-Cooper ISD
Aldine ISD	El Paso ISD	McKinney ISD
Aledo ISD	Fast Growth School Coalition	Miami ISD
Alief ISD	Friendswood ISD	Midland ISD
Alvin ISD	Frisco ISD	New Caney ISD
Arlington ISD	Galveston ISD	Peaster ISD
Austin ISD	Garner ISD	Plano ISD
Barbershill ISD	Goose Creek CISD	Port Aransas ISD
Bastrop ISD	Grapevine Colleyville ISD	Prosper ISD
Birdville ISD	Gregory Portland ISD	Richardson ISD
Boerne ISD	Hays CISD	Rockwall ISD
Brock ISD	Highland Park ISD	Round Rock ISD
Cleveland ISD	Hutto ISD	Royse City ISD
College Station ISD	Jarrell ISD	San Antonio ISD
Coppell ISD	Katy ISD	Spring Branch ISD
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Klein ISD	Sunnyvale ISD
Dallas ISD	Lake Travis ISD	Texas Association of School Administrators
Denton ISD	Lewisville ISD	Templeton Demographics
Dickinson ISD	Liberty Hill ISD	Tyler ISD
Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD	Lockhart ISD	Texas School Coalition
Eanes ISD	Lovejoy ISD	

**About Plano Independent School District**

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,900 staff members who serve more than 53,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. **Mission:** Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

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