



## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Richardson ISD Board of Trustees supports legislation that places students, staff and academic achievement as a top priority. To that end, House Bill 3 made significant steps in providing the necessary funding for RISD to achieve student academic goals that include: early childhood literacy; early childhood math achievement; Algebra I competency prior to high school; college, career and military readiness, and increasing the graduation rate. RISD Trustees call upon the 87th Texas Legislature to maintain the promises of HB 3 by continuing to fund the landmark legislation so student progress and academic success can continue.

### SCHOOL FINANCE

- Provide sustainable funding for House Bill 3 in order to achieve academic goals.
- Maintain the state's overall percentage share of funding.
- Provide maximum flexibility to districts by removing or reducing spending requirements on the use of appropriated funds.

### DISASTER RESPONSE

- Use STAAR to measure student progress, but eliminate school and district ratings for the school year in which a disaster declaration has occurred.
- Extend the hold harmless provisions for student attendance for the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- Remove spending requirements to allow districts maximum flexibility to cover disaster expenses.
- Dedicate federal funds, specifically named for disaster relief for public school districts, to public schools without supplanting state public education spending.

### STUDENTS

- Increase state funding and resources for mental health so schools can provide effective services and support for students.
- Improve funding to meet the needs of special education students and consider the variety of student needs.

### SCHOOL SAFETY

Fully-fund capital and operating expenses for school safety measures so school districts can afford needed safety equipment, tools and personnel to protect students and staff.

### EQUITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

RISD trustees call on the Legislature to eliminate systems and practices that perpetuate historical inequities and present disparities that could negatively impact the ability of students and families to participate in the Texas public education system. RISD Trustees support legislation that brings about awareness, education and equitable treatment of all students, educators and administrators in Texas public schools.



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