



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Richardson ISD Board of Trustees supports legislation that places student and educator safety, as well as student academic achievement, as top priorities while allowing school districts to make decisions based on what is best for their local school community. RISD Trustees want the 88th Legislature to allocate the resources and support necessary for teachers and administrators to prepare students to meet and exceed state standards and to become productive citizens. RISD Trustees believe data and research from experts should be used to inform legislation, while allowing that decisions regarding implementation be made by those closest to the students and their families.

WE SUPPORT:

### MEASURES TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY

- Allow school districts the option to prohibit school buildings from being used as polling places on any day school is in session, except on Election Day in November
- Increase the school safety allotment and allow local control for school safety measures that should include:
  - » Securing campuses
  - » Training for school personnel
  - » Mental health support with specialized counselors

### MEASURES TO ADDRESS TEACHER RECRUITMENT, RETAINMENT AND RETRAINING

- Elevate the teaching profession by initiating a statewide campaign to support and advocate for the teaching profession
- Provide pay incentives to recruit new teachers and retain veteran teachers that is separate and apart from the Teacher Incentive Allotment
- Provide State-funded benefits for educators like paid leave for new parents, reduced insurance premiums and deductibles, state parks and recreations or DMV benefits, etc.
- Allow flexibility in certifications to allow districts to fill high-need openings
- Suspend the TRS penalty for rehiring retired teachers



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## **MEASURES TO ESTABLISH A FAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM**

- Increase the basic allotment to allow for inflation
- Increase the State's share of funding education to allow for local property tax reduction
- Ensure that all funds collected by the State from public school districts (ISDs) are only distributed to school districts (ISDs) and are not allocated to other entities, institutions or other areas of the State budget
- Provide flexibility in spending requirements
- Eliminate unfunded mandates
- Reduce State reliance on recapture by limiting the percentage of recapture allowed

## **MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE STATE'S ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

- Specify that any public tax dollars used to fund education for any institution (public, charter, home, or private school) shall be held accountable to taxpayers by complete participation in the State's accountability system that measures student achievement (STAAR)
- Allow national assessments that contribute to student acceptance into institutions of higher education like PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, or IB to be used in place of end-of-course exams with no penalty to the student or school district
- Ensure that emergent bilingual students do not receive more testing than other students

## **FURTHERMORE, RISD TRUSTEES SUPPORT:**

- Prioritizing local control in all legislation to ensure those closest to the community and voters are held accountable
- Ensuring that all school districts are allowed representation in all forms before the Texas legislature and executive branch
- Clarifying required bond language to include information for voters that indicates a proposed tax rate may reduce the amount of taxes owed

### CONTACT

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## **RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHERE ALL STUDENTS CONNECT, LEARN, GROW, AND SUCCEED

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UPDATED OCTOBER 31, 2022

