

Learn About the Issues

ISSUE: [School Funding](#)

Governor Abbott has stated that he will not consider school funding until a voucher bill has been passed in this 3rd special session. School funding and teacher pay should not be held hostage for a voucher program that was rejected twice in the House last spring.

- School districts have not seen an increase in funding per student since 2019. Because of record inflation, public schools need more than \$14 billion in new per-student funding to have the same buying power as in 2019. The state only provided \$3.9 billion during the regular session.
- The [state expects record increases in revenue](#) over the next two years. These increases are more than enough to cover increased funding for schools and property tax relief.
- Texas public school students are the future workforce of the 9th largest economy in the world. [Every dollar invested in Texas Public Schools generates \\$57 in economic benefit](#) to the state.
- Richardson ISD has had to pass a budget deficit for the last two year due to lack of new funding. This is not sustainable for the future.
- Legislators should separate school funding from any type of voucher plan and allow each issue to be resolved individually.

ISSUE: [School Safety Funding](#)

Last spring, the Texas legislature passed House Bill 3 which mandates that every school campus have a fulltime armed security officer. An additional \$0.28 per student and \$15,000 per campus was provided, far short of the cost of meeting the mandate.

- **RISD is required spend an additional \$2.52 to \$2.7 million to hire, equip, and train 36 security personnel to meet HB 3 requirements.**
- The legislature should increase the school safety allotment by at least \$100 to pay for requirements they enacted.

ISSUE: [Vouchers or Education Savings Accounts](#)

A voucher or education savings account program sets up another education system in Texas that costs tens of millions to run, and gives public tax dollars (hundreds of millions) to parents to pay for private school tuition or spend on non-public education expenses.

- **The public tax dollars used for vouchers or education savings accounts have no accountability to taxpayers.**
- **Private schools can refuse to accept any student** while public schools accept all students.
- **Dollars used for education savings accounts or vouchers should be used in the public school system.**
- **Private schools are not required to follow the federal protections for students** that public schools follow, including safeguards to confidential student information.
- **The cost for a voucher/education savings account system in Texas will quickly grow into billions of dollars.**