



## 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### *We Support:*

#### **LEGISLATION THAT MODIFIES THE DISCIPLINE CODE (TEC CHAPTER 37) TO ALLOW LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY HANDLE STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Disruptive students must not be permitted to continuously disrupt the learning of other students or risk the safety of teachers or other students. Schools must be permitted to implement immediate intervention in situations where a student's presence in the classroom causes substantial risk of harm to students or teachers.

#### **LEGISLATION THAT FULLY RESTORES HOUSE BILL 3 (2019) FUNDING LEVELS AND THAT WILL INCREASE THE BASIC ALLOTMENT**

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed significant legislation to address the needs of public education via House Bill 3. Since 2019, there has been record inflation of more than 20% with no increase to the basic allotment. Restoring the funding levels provided by House Bill 3 helps public school districts manage the impact of inflation and allows the legislature to continue their support of public education for the more than five million students who attend their local public schools.

#### **LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES FUNDING TO ADDRESS STUDENT NEEDS AND HIGHER COSTS DUE TO INFLATION**

- **SPECIAL EDUCATION** - Funding provides support for students with mild to severely limited learning abilities. Special Education is currently underfunded by \$8.1 million in RISD.
- **STUDENT AND SCHOOL SAFETY** - Legislation in 2023 provided \$15,000 per campus and an additional \$0.28 to fund a full-time security officer on every campus. Student and School Safety is currently underfunded by approximately \$5.98 million in RISD.
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION)** - CTE courses provide a more skilled workforce for employers. RISD would like to offer robust programming for students desiring automotive technology and maintenance, which would provide qualified employees in a much-needed area of the workforce, but does not have funding to pay for specialized teachers.



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- **PRE-KINDERGARTEN FUNDING** – Early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds is a great equalizer, enabling students to begin their education career ready to advance their learning. Providing only half-day funding for full-day pre-K education results in a gap of approximately \$4 million.
- **OPERATION EXPENSES** – Due to inflation, expenses have increased in property insurance, health insurance, utility and transportation, etc. In the past two years, RISD property insurance has increased almost \$2 million. In the past five years, health insurance premiums have increased 36%; transportation, utilities and food service costs have increased 33%; personnel costs for instruction, libraries, counseling, and nursing have increased 24%.

## **LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS RECRUITING AND RETAINING TEACHERS**

- Provide compensation and incentives to recruit new teachers and retain veteran teachers that is separate and apart from the Teacher Incentive Allotment.
- Increase state-funded benefits for educators to include greater state contributions for health insurance and paid leave for new parents (as in SB 222 (88-R) for ERS state employees).
- Suspend the TRS penalty for rehiring retired teachers.

## **LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

- Ensure that testing methods and rules are given to school districts no later than the beginning of a school year.
- Measure student growth and performance fairly for all students, including economically disadvantaged and emergent bilingual students.
- Modify the existing accountability system to reflect more of what parents value in public education, including quality instruction, co- and extracurricular activities, family engagement, availability of transportation, etc.
- Ensure accuracy in grading state assessments.
- 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.
- 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, assessment and financial systems.

### CONTACT

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## **RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

EVERY CHILD. EVERY TEACHER. EVERY LEADER. EVERY DAY.

[www.RISD.ORG](http://www.RISD.ORG)

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