

College Station ISD Legislative Priorities

Provide a School Finance System that Adequately and Equitably Funds All Schools

- Using the exhortation from the Texas Supreme Court, overhaul the “Byzantine” Texas school finance system to one that ensures equitable and adequate resources for all Texas children.
- The state should provide greater budget transparency in the use of local school property taxes as a revenue source for the general fund budget.
- Additional revenue generated from business and homeowner school property taxes should be reinvested in public schools and not used as additional state general revenue.

Do not Take Resources from Public Schools through Voucher/Private School Choice Plans

- Do not approve any plan (vouchers, educational savings accounts, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, etc.) that takes money out of the public school system and gives them to private schools or home schools with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers or local communities. These provisions include but are not limited to public notices, transportation, bilingual and special education requirements, employment contracts, lunch programs and nepotism statutes.

Improve State Assessment and Accountability Systems

- Eliminate A-F accountability ratings for districts and campuses.
- Reduce the state mandated tests given in grades 3-8 to those tests required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): reading and math (3-8) and science in 5th and 8th grade.
- Reduce the number of curricular standards assessed on the STAAR tests for accountability purposes, allowing teachers to teach to greater depth.

Help School District Infrastructure in Fast Growing Communities

- Increase capacities of local districts to fund rapidly increasing enrollment in growing areas like College Station by modifying or eliminating the \$0.50 debt test.
- Expand the use of state funding programs (Existing Debt Allotment, Instructional Facilities Allotment and New Instructional Facilities Allotment) to help defray some of the cost of new facilities and allow meaningful tax relief for local school taxpayers.

Provide More Meaningful Local Control for the School Calendar

- Increase local control of important community decisions like the school calendar by allowing districts to start school no earlier than the third Monday in August.