

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Local Control and Governance

- Support the statutory duty and right of the local school board to advocate and associate for the educational needs of all students and the community.
- Support a school district's or administrator's ability to have representation before the Texas Legislature, state agencies, and the executive branch.
- Ensure local control over the implementation of safety and security measures to ensure they adequately meet student and staff safety needs.
- Allow school districts to include ballot language that accurately informs voters of what a bond or voter-approved tax ratification proposition seeks to accomplish.
- Retain the current district of innovation law providing districts with flexibility and local control.

Student Safety & Mental Health

- Provide adequate funding for student safety utilizing a funding stream from state revenues that is outside the school finance formula.
- Provide adequate funding to provide students and staff with more robust mental health support on campus, such as additional counselors, nurses, and psychiatrists.
- Provide reimbursement for safety expenditures, facility upgrades, law enforcement resources, and additional staff positions such as an armed security officer at each campus during the school day, as mandated by Texas Education Agency.

Accountability & Student Success

- Establish a comprehensive accountability system that relies more on meaningful assessments and a broader range of student performance indicators over high-stakes, multiple choice exams; reduce the amount of time students spend taking state tests to only those required by the Every Student Succeeds Act.
 - Provide for extensive review and stakeholder input, including potential impact on the A-F rating system, prior to any statutory changes to the state assessment system.
 - Advocate for local discretion in instructional planning to support struggling students and the repeal of inflexible state-level requirements.
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Education Funding

- Raise per pupil funding to at least the national average and provide for annual inflationary adjustments each biennium and adjustments for regional cost differences.
- Use enrollment vs. attendance as the standard for school funding and support sustainable state funding for House Bill 3 (2019).
- Ensure state-based funding for any state-required mandates.
- Provide Foundation School Program funding for universal, full-day pre-K for all students, to include transportation and facilities; oppose any cuts to the Foundation School Program.
- Increase the bilingual education allotment to fully address student needs and staffing requirements.
- Increase state funding for special education students, especially for those with the greatest needs.
- Protect local control of school spending to ensure the unique needs of our students, staff, and the community are met.

Vouchers, Taxpayer Savings Grants, Virtual Vouchers

- Oppose any effort or state plan that would use vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or similar mechanisms to divert public tax dollars to private entities, homeschooled students, or parents, including the expansion of virtual instruction by corporations.

Teacher Recruitment & Retention

- Provide additional state funding necessary to elevate the teaching profession, including financial aid incentives, increased compensation, improved health and retirement benefits, and access to mental health supports.
- Support an array of measures to help with recruitment and retention of the workforce, including advocating to remove state barriers for teacher candidates such as offering affordable certification exams.
- Decrease burdensome mandates on educators.
- Allow districts to hire Teacher Retirement System of Texas retirees without imposing restrictions or financial penalties.

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BISD AT A GLANCE

- 13,370 students
- 17 schools plus 2 elementary schools in design or under construction
- 98.8% graduation rate
- 67% economically disadvantaged
- 46% emergent bilingual
- 15% special education
- 8% gifted and talented
- 20 languages & dialects spoken
- Largest employer in Bastrop County with 1,800 employees

BiSD
