

SPRING ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



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BOARD of TRUSTEES



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The Spring ISD Board of Trustees has set forth a number of legislative priorities for the current session. The Board diligently studied how government actions at local, state, and federal levels influence our district and identified crucial areas where the Texas Legislature could empower Spring ISD in its mission to better serve our students and the wider community.

An elected, seven-member Board of Trustees is empowered by the Texas Legislature to govern and manage Spring ISD schools. The Board fulfills its responsibility by establishing and setting objectives for achieving the district's strategic plan, adopting an annual budget based on the plan, establishing policies for the operation of the district and selecting a superintendent who serves as the district's chief executive officer.

The Board encourages all members of the Spring community to participate in the education process and welcomes their input. The public is invited to attend monthly board meetings, normally held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, except July, at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, 16717 Ella Blvd., Houston.

VISION



Spring Independent School District is a district of choice for high quality academics with innovative and specialized programs that meet the needs of all students in a positive learning environment.

MISSION



Spring Independent School District prepares students to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens who display good character – ready to contribute, compete, and lead in today's global society.

Learn more about at
www.springisd.org





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EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

Stop Education Savings Accounts (ESA) as we believe they divert essential funding away from public schools, potentially undermining the quality of education provided to the majority of students. This would include traditional vouchers, education savings accounts, taxpayer savings grants, tax credits, education grants, and any other means of diverting public tax dollars away from public education.

While we support a parent's right to choose a private school or homeschool education for their child – at their own discretion and not using taxpayer dollars – we believe that, for the vast majority of students, strong public schools and robust public school choice programs such as magnet schools, career and technical programs, and innovative academic and career pathways are the surest path to success.

Increases to the Basic Allotment, teacher pay raises, and other school finance changes – should not be tied to passage of a bill.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Spring ISD is advocating for an increase to the Basic Allotment, taking into account the rising expenses faced by school districts over the past four years. These rising expenses encompass not only the academic catch-up required by students in the pandemic's aftermath, but also managing inflation-induced costs. The effects of inflation touch not just the personal living expenses of our staff and district families, but also district wide operating costs, including fuel, utilities, and other essential supplies and services.

Tax funds designated for education should exclusively benefit public schools that operate under transparent accountability systems. Channeling these funds to institutions that lack taxpayer accountability depletes vital resources from public school settings, impacts the capacity of districts to compensate their educators and staff, and diminishes clarity in the allocation of public funds. Spring ISD stands against any initiatives to employ public tax dollars for voucher schemes.

- **Basic Allotment:** Adjust the Basic Allotment to reflect inflation since 2019 and align the Basic Allotment with ongoing inflation rates. Raise the Basic Allotment to \$8000 per student to give every district in Texas the opportunity to accommodate rising costs, including staff salary increases which should also address the teacher shortage.
- **Fund on Enrollment:** For more reliable and predictable funding, base state funding on a district's enrollment rather than on Average Daily Attendance. School districts have incurred costs whether the student is in class or not. Texas is only one of seven districts that does not fund public schools based on enrollment.





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- **Special Education:** Base Special Education funding on the services rendered to students rather than preset instructional plans, and revise the funding metrics to mirror the genuine service costs. Fully fund the cost of testing students for special education.
- **Pre-K Funding:** Fully fund PK because as of today, PK is only funded for half a day. Districts, including Spring ISD, that cater to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or even severe poverty, emphasize the need to enroll these children in Pre-K by the age of three to build the foundation for later success. Early Pre-K enrollment significantly enhances their academic prospects and achievements in the long run.
- **Transportation:** Increase the allotment available to districts for hazardous routes as urban districts have many areas that require additional transportation support. Increase the reimbursement rate for each mile to ensure districts can adequately fund safe and reliable student transportation.



ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Empower districts to set local guidelines for remediation strategies for students who fall short in state assessments.
- Enhance the state's school evaluation system to encompass more diverse and relevant data for a holistic view of school performance.



SPRING ISD'S POSITION ON UNFUNDED MANDATES AND SCHOOL FUNDING.

- Monitor unfunded mandates that strain our school's financial resources and allocate sustainable funding strategies for HB 3 & HB 4545 replaced by HB 1416.
- Additional funding to support high-performing teachers through the state's Teacher Incentive Allotment.
- Adequately fund the School Safety Allotment and increase local flexibility to allow school districts to meet the safety needs of their students, staff, and local campuses.





WHO REPRESENTS US?



Below are the legislators who represent the communities Spring ISD serves. To find the legislator who represents a certain address, visit fyi.capitol.texas.gov

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