



# COLLEGE STATION ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

College Station ISD is a school district encompassing 103 square miles with approximately 14,500 students and 2,000 employees. The priorities below support our mission of “Success: Each Life ... Each Day ... Each Hour” and will help ensure the future of the great State of Texas. **Simply put, the future lies in Texas public schools.**

## SCHOOL FINANCE

- Advocate for an adequate and equitable school finance system that raises per pupil funding to at least the national average and adjusts for inflation.
- Leverage the current state surplus of funds to support the permanent funding of public education.
- Advocate for local discretion with spending to ensure that the needs of students, staff, and communities are met.
- Adequately fund current and future state mandates (e.g., HB 4545).
- Support the use of enrollment vs. attendance as the standard for school funding.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

- Advocate for the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, one-day, multiple-choice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers, as well as measures what each community deems important in promoting college and career, military readiness.
- Advocate for the removal of A–F campus and district ratings that oversimplify the complex work of schools and incentivize teaching to standardized tests.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Oppose the further expansion of charter schools, including increases in the number of campuses under existing charters, unless they are subject to the same accountability and transparency rules as traditional public schools, including student enrollment processes/recruitment, student expulsion practices, business operations, and expenditures.

## VOUCHERS

- Oppose any state plan that would use vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or other means to divert public tax dollars to private entities, homeschooled students, or parents without the same academic and financial accountability or transparency to the state, taxpayers, or local communities as public school districts.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

- Advocate for increased funding of the School Safety Allotment and local flexibility to ensure districts can adequately meet student and staff safety needs.
- Advocate for state funded support to increase counseling services and campus based mental and behavioral health services for students. The academic needs of students cannot be separated from the social, emotional and behavioral needs of students and vice-versa.

## TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Elevate the profession of teaching by providing more substantial financial aid and other programs to incentivize entering the profession.
- Increase educator and staff compensation.
- Improve employee retirement benefits.
- Decrease the burdensome mandates that unnecessarily increase an educator’s workload.
- Increase state (not district or retiree) support of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) pension to ensure the system remains solvent and provides for all retirees.

## BALLOT LANGUAGE HONESTY

- Allow school district bond and voter-approved tax ratification propositions to include ballot language that accurately and fully informs voters of what the measure seeks to accomplish.
- Ensure that ballot language requirements allow for clarity and avoid voter confusion as to the tax rate and other financial implications.

## LOCAL CONTROL / GOVERNANCE

- Oppose legislation or measures that seek to limit school districts’ or administrators’ ability to engage in the legislative process.
- Remove existing statutes and prevent new legislation that grants unelected state officials and executive agency staff discretion over how to implement legislation.