



Austin ISD

Priorities for the 85th Legislative Session

Approved by the Austin ISD Board of Trustees on June 20, 2016

AUSTIN ISD SUPPORTS

Public School Finance

- A state system of public school finance that provides an adequate and equitable public school finance system, ensuring an excellent education for all Texas students.
- A state system of public school finance that is based on multiple sustainable state revenue sources, and therefore reduces the current over-reliance on local property taxes as a revenue source.
- A state system of public school finance that reflects increases in the cost of education and the cost of living.
- A simpler more transparent system of public school finance.
- Adequate resources to support full implementation of the endorsement strands imbedded within HB 5 (83rd R), including the costs incurred in course development, advising students, professional development, and teacher certification.

Accountability

- A state accountability system that uses a variety of measures in addition to state-mandated tests to ensure all students are prepared for college or the work force upon graduation.

- A state accountability system that relies on student academic proficiency, growth and graduation rates rather than on punitive actions toward schools, school districts, teachers, and students.

Local Control & Flexibility

- Public schools governed by locally elected school board members.
- Flexibility to allow local school districts to lower tax rates with the authority to return to the previously voter-approved rate without an additional election.

Pre-K

- Expansion of grant funding for high-quality Pre-kindergarten.

AUSTIN ISD OPPOSES

Diversion of State Funding From Public Schools

- Vouchers, tax credits, tax payer savings grants, tuition reimbursements or any other programs that divert public tax dollars to either privately run schools or charter school districts that are exempt from state and federal accountability requirements.

Unfunded Mandates

- Any new unfunded mandates and infringements upon local control.