



NORTH EAST ISD

2019 Legislative Agenda

The North East ISD Board of Trustees supports legislation that provides adequate resources to Texas public schools and protects local authority to use those resources to meet the needs of all students. **The Board is asking the 86th Texas Legislature to:**

School Finance

Fund schools adequately by accurately reflecting the cost of education and regularly adjusting to changes in cost and student need.

The current funding system does not fully respond to changing financial conditions such as inflationary costs, regional cost differences or a diverse student population.

Invest all current revenue dedicated to education without a reduction in state support.

The state depends on rising property values to decrease its share of public education funding in order to fund other state programs.

Study the growth in recapture payments and recapture districts to determine if the system should be capped at a maximum percentage of districts, students, and/or wealth.

The amount collected through recapture payments and the number of districts making recapture payments has grown significantly since 2009-2010 without any safeguards or caps to limit an overreliance on this funding mechanism.

Oppose programs that divert public tax dollars to privately run schools that are not held to the same academic and financial accountability standards as public schools.

Schools receiving public tax dollars through vouchers, tuition tax credits and other programs should answer to taxpayers and adhere to the same financial and academic accountability standards of public schools.

Accountability

Adjust the state's academic accountability system to ensure it accurately reflects the performance of districts and schools without the use of forced failures or an overreliance on standardized tests.

The complexity of the Texas accountability system makes it difficult to truly understand the quality of schools, and it fails to adjust to school communities with more challenging environments. Additionally, Texas requires more assessments than the federal accountability system.

Adopt Individual Graduation Committees (IGC) permanently as an appropriate safeguard against the overreliance on high stakes testing.

Students must complete additional requirements to be eligible for IGC approval to graduate.

Fund SAT/ACT test administration as required alternative assessments under the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

The state's testing system is the state's responsibility.

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Local Control

Provide adequate notice and information about charter school expansion to increase transparency in the amendment process and prevent an oversaturation of charter schools in particular geographic areas.

Local taxpayers and school districts should have opportunities for input into the charter school expansion process because a concentration of public schools without corresponding student enrollment growth creates duplicate costs and an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Ensure flexibility for school boards to respond to local safety and security needs, such as facility enhancements and mental-health resources, and identify additional and ongoing state funding.

Each campus and community in Texas has unique circumstances related to safety and security, which make a one-size-fits-all approach ineffective.

Permit local school boards to require criminal background checks for school board candidates to confirm candidate qualification and support the disqualification standard of a candidate who has been convicted of a felony.

If a school board candidate with an “un-hireable” offense on his/her criminal history record is elected, then the school district may be compelled to chaperone the trustee at all school- and district-sponsored events or may have to limit access to certain events depending on the particular offense.

North East ISD is the second largest public school district in San Antonio, Texas. It serves a diverse student population of more than 64,000 students across 144 square miles. The District provides a 360-degree education, meaning we educate the entire child by providing a variety of extracurricular activities in addition to teaching a rigorous core curriculum. From full-day prekindergarten programs and bilingual education to ten magnet programs and award-winning extracurricular programs, the District strives to reach every child, every day. Learn more about us at www.neisd.net.

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