

SAMPLE ISD RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Whereas, the _____ Independent School District Board of Trustees recognizes that the quality of education is crucial for the development of a skilled workforce that meets the demands of an evolving economy; and

Whereas, public schools in Texas play a vital role in preparing our children for success in higher education, vocational training, military service, and the workforce; and

Whereas, increasing funding for public schools in Texas will enhance educational opportunities, improve learning opportunities, and provide necessary resources for both students and teachers; and

Whereas, studies have shown that higher investment in public education leads to better student outcomes, including higher graduation rates and improved standardized test scores, which in turn contribute to a more competitive workforce; and

Whereas, a well-educated populace is essential for attracting and retaining businesses in Texas, fostering innovation, and driving economic growth; and

Whereas, investing in public education is an investment in the Texas economy, as it reduces long-term costs related to unemployment, poverty, and criminal justice; and

Whereas, robust equitable funding for all public schools ensures that every child, regardless of their background, has access to high-quality education and the chance to succeed; and

Whereas, the Texas economy is projected to grow, and a strong public education system is necessary to meet future workforce demands in high-demand sectors such as technology, healthcare, and skilled trades;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Seminole Independent School District Board of Trustees strongly supports the increase of funding for public schools in Texas, advocating for meaningful, lasting investments to ensure that every student has access to a quality education; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Seminole Independent School District adopts the following list of legislative priorities for the 89th Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature and urges state legislators and relevant stakeholders to prioritize educational funding as a key component of Texas' economic development strategy; and

1. Support measures to restore the funding cuts

Many school districts are now **getting less funding than they did prior to 2019** due to the loss of the Formula Transition Grant (FTG). It was aimed to protect districts from losing funding as a result of the changes made in the school finance formulas after the legislature passed HB 3 in 2019. The FTG was written with an expiration date, with the expectation that lawmakers would continue to build upon HB 3 reforms, and that the Basic Allotment and other aspects of the school finance formulas would keep up with student needs and the effects of inflation. However, the Texas Legislature has not adopted those expected and hoped-for updates to the finance formulas, and the expiration date has come and gone, causing funding levels in certain school districts to plummet to levels worse than before the passage of HB 3.

2. Invest in all students by increasing the Basic Allotment

Texas is the ninth-largest economy in the world and has established a strong track record for job creation and business growth. The state’s continued economic success depends on the presence of a well-educated workforce that is ready to meet the demands of a changing economy. The Basic Allotment has been flat since 2019, despite significant inflation since that time, putting Texas in the bottom 10 states in per-pupil funding. An increase in the Basic Allotment would give public school districts the flexibility to boost teacher salaries, keep schools safe, and put dollars directly into the classroom.

3. Index the Basic Allotment to inflation

Just as Texans are dealing with increased expenses to live and operate businesses, public school districts face higher costs as they seek to provide students with excellent learning opportunities. With inflation increasing more than 20% since 2019 — without a correlating increase in the Basic Allotment — school districts’ purchasing power has diminished considerably. A one-time investment from the state’s historic surplus would put needed dollars into public schools without any additional burden on taxpayers. To help school districts maintain investments in students in the future, an automatic adjustment to the Basic Allotment should be tied to inflation.

4. Demand public accountability for public dollars

Any school or educational entity that receives public funds should be held to the same standards for student outcomes, fiscal performance, open records and meetings, student services, and other forms of transparency. When some schools receiving public funds are not held to the same accountability standards as others, student performance, fiscal responsibility, and public trust are all put at risk.

5. Reinstate early payment discount to reduce recapture burden

The Legislature’s efforts to provide property-tax relief have helped to reduce recapture by making the school-funding system less dependent on local tax collections. Legislators could also reduce recapture by reinstating the optional early payment discount that was previously offered to school districts but eliminated in 2019. The early-payment discount is available to businesses making sales tax and motor-vehicle tax payments to the state, and it should also be available to **school districts making recapture payments. This would provide relief for school districts while allowing the state to collect revenue sooner.**

Be It Further Resolved, that the _____ Independent School District Board of Trustees will actively communicate the importance of this issue to our community, encourage public discourse on educational funding, and collaborate with local and state organizations to support initiatives aimed at enhancing funding for public education in Texas.

Be it Finally Resolved, that the _____ Independent School Board of Trustees respectfully urges that the members of the 89th Texas Legislature demonstrate their commitment to the development of a skilled workforce that meets the demands of an evolving economy with an increase in funding to Texas public schools.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the _____ Independent School District on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

School Board President

School Board Trustee

School Board Vice President

School Board Trustee

School Board Secretary

School Board Trustee

School Board Trustee