

# Priorities for the 89th Legislature



**TEXAS SCHOOL  
COALITION**

## **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 ready to meet the demands of a changing economy.
- The Basic Allotment has been flat since 2019, putting Texas in the bottom 10 states in per-pupil funding.
- A Basic Allotment increase would give school districts the flexibility to boost teacher salaries, keep schools safe, and offer more academic programs.

## **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.
- 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.

## **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, and student services.
- When some schools receiving public funds are not held to the same accountability standards as others, student performance, fiscal responsibility, and public trust are put at risk.
- Ensure that taxpayers in Chapter 49 school districts can clearly track how the state utilizes their recaptured local property tax dollars.

## **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 offered to school districts until 2019.
- The early-payment discount is available to businesses making sales tax and motor-vehicle tax payments to the state.
- This discount would provide relief for school districts while allowing the state to collect revenue sooner.