

Texas' fourth largest school district

Northside ISD is the largest public school system in Bexar County with a 2022-2023 enrollment of over 102,000 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Since 1995, voters have approved almost \$5 billion in bonds to build additional schools, renovate existing facilities, add technology, and upgrade safety and security.

The Community and its Elected School Board of Trustees

Northside ISD Trustees represent approximately 267,000 households across over 355 square miles in northwest Bexar County and parts of Medina and Bandera counties. Seven single-member district Trustees advocate for the needs of over 102,000 students, 14,000 employees, and 410,000 registered voters.

Mission Statement

At Northside ISD, our mission is to transform the learning experience for students so that every day, every student grows in confidence, curiosity, and capability.



TEXAS HOUSE

- District 53 – Andrew Murr**
- District 116 – Trey Martinez Fischer**
- District 117 – Philip Cortez**
- District 122 – Mark Dorazio**
- District 123 – Diego Bernal**
- District 124 – Josey Garcia**
- District 125 – Ray Lopez**

*To contact your State Representative,
direct your correspondence or calls to:*

The Honorable (Full Name)
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

TEXAS SENATE

- District 19 – Roland Gutierrez**
- District 24 – Pete Flores**
- District 25 – Donna Campbell**
- District 26 – José Menéndez**

*To contact your State Senator,
direct your correspondence or calls to:*

The Honorable (Full Name)
Texas Senate Capitol Station
PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

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Legislative Session, visit www.capitol.texas.gov



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2023 Legislative Priorities

*Benefitting students,
taxpayers, and employees*



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Carol Harle, Ph.D.
President,
District 6



Brian T. Woods,
Ed.D.
Superintendent,
Northside ISD

2023 Legislative Priorities

Benefitting students, taxpayers, and employees

The Northside Independent School District Board of Trustees supports legislation that protects public education in Texas to include full state funding, transparency of all taxpayer-funded public schools, fair and responsible student assessments, support for teachers and staff, and local control to address the diverse needs of each individual school district.

We respectfully ask the 88th Legislature to:

Finance

- Increase the school safety allotment to \$100 per pupil and establish a fully funded baseline for facility security standards, utilizing one-time funds as needed to bring all public schools into compliance with said standards.
- Increase the basic allotment to adjust for inflation and bring Texas in line with the national average for per pupil spending.
- Require biennial indexation of all allotments to adjust for inflation.
- Supplement the State Compensatory Education allotment through 2031 to address funding lost due to the 2020 Census undercount in Texas.
- Fully fund statewide, universal, high-quality, full-day pre-kindergarten programs and related facilities.
- Adequately fund and support poverty reduction strategies, including policies that aim to meet the basic needs of children and families and provide economic security through a robust safety net including, but not limited to: food assistance, adult education programming, job training, and access to affordable childcare, healthcare, housing, and transportation.
- Adequately fund the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment to ensure districts are able to manage increasing technology-related expenses and required materials adoptions, and implement a minimum allotment per biennium.
- Support legislation that increases funding for: facilities through the Existing Debt Allotment,

Instructional Facilities Allotment, and New Instructional Facilities Allotment by including a higher percentage of students; and fast-growth districts and those who are paying down debt from fast-growth years in the recent past.

- Allocate appropriate funding sufficient to provide students with robust mental health support, counseling, and wrap-around support services by ensuring: one counselor and one social worker for every 250 students, one psychologist for every 500 students, and one nurse for every 750 students.
- Support grandparents raising grandchildren, and all kinship caregivers, by providing adequate resources to allow for a healthy and sustainable environment for the child(ren) and ensuring access to information, records, and support from relevant agencies.

Shortage of Education Professionals

- Explore legislation relaxing or eliminating surcharges for retire-rehires for a minimum of four years to address the ongoing teacher and personnel shortage.
- Support legislation establishing an allotment for research and deployment of teacher recruitment and retention programs that may be implemented in addition to or in lieu of the Teacher Incentive Allotment and provide explicit authority for school districts to choose the programs and strategies appropriate for their unique communities.
- Ensure any new legislation that would include added responsibilities for educators allows for efficient and effective incorporation into an educator's core schedule without disruption to other established duties and focus areas.
- Support an immediate Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees in the Teacher Retirement System, and the implementation of a review mechanism to provide future COLAs when certain thresholds are met.
- Strengthen the teacher pipeline via increased and sustainable funding for "Grow Your Own" programs, teacher residencies, comprehensive support for new teachers, and eliminating financial barriers to entering the profession.

Efficiency, Assessments, and Accountability

- Require utilization of assessments as diagnostic tools to inform instructional decisions that support individual students, and prevent the use of assessment data for assigning accountability ratings with punitive consequences.

- Support legislation that repeals the rating of schools or districts on an A-F scale and instead requires a comprehensive evaluation process that places greater emphasis on local accountability.
- Support legislation aligning the process for expanding existing charter school networks to the charter authorization process, including an analysis of any proposed charter school's cost to the Permanent School Fund and its impact on surrounding school district funding and enrollment.
- Oppose the diversion of state funding in any form from public schools - which serve all students and are held to rigorous state and federal standards, to private entities.

Governance

- Ensure that locally elected school boards maintain all powers and duties to govern their respective school districts and preserve and protect those rights from any state agency or other entity that would substitute its judgment for the lawful execution of those powers and duties.
- Repeal requirements of broad-brush ballot language for school bond and Voter-Approval Tax Rate elections that describe a property tax increase or percentage increase in tax revenue without accounting for the actual overall financial implication of specific propositions.
- Support legislation providing school districts explicit authority to determine appropriate disciplinary action - including tiered response for repeat offenses and substance abuse treatment support, for students found in possession of THC and other recreational drugs.

For more information:

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