

Texas' fourth largest school district

Northside ISD is the largest public school system in Bexar County with a 2023-2024 enrollment of approximately 100,000 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 approximately 100,000 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

To stay informed on legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session, visit www.capitol.texas.gov

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- District 1 - Melissa N. Ortega**
melissa.ortega@tea.texas.gov
- District 3 - Marisa B. Perez-Diaz**
marisa.perez@sboe.texas.gov



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2025 Legislative Priorities

*Benefitting students,
taxpayers, and employees*



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Dr. John M. Craft,
Superintendent,
Northside ISD

2025 Legislative Priorities

Benefitting students, taxpayers, and employees

The Northside Independent School District believes in:

- funding public schools and providing their employees wages that support basic living expenses and benefits that reflect current-day economic pressures and professional credentials;
- school safety that protects the whole child with sufficient financial support to cover physical and mental safety measures;
- an accountability system that tells the comprehensive story of public schools;
- teacher retention and recruitment programs that recognize the growing vacancy crisis across the State of Texas

We respectfully ask the 89th legislature for:

FUNDING

1. Escalating costs of goods and services due to rising inflation challenge school districts' ability to provide high-quality education to our state's over five million students. Funding formulas should be updated, and basic allotment should be increased every legislative session using a nationally recognized, independent, economic calibration.
2. The school finance system should be based on student enrollment to create stability and predictability that would sustain school districts even during times of public emergencies.

3. The special education funding formula should be updated to provide adequate fiscal support to fully fund all federally required services.
4. Any plans to divert public tax dollars to private entities by utilizing vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants, or tuition reimbursements with no academic or financial accountability or transparency to the state, taxpayers, or local communities should be directly opposed.

SCHOOL SAFETY

1. The State of Texas, should provide the suitable amount of ongoing funding necessary to meet the required standards of security, school hardening, and armed officer personnel that every school is now expected to maintain annually.
2. To ensure comprehensive health support and proactive communication among educators, parents, staff, and students, including responding to any incidents that result in behavior management and threat assessments, school districts need dedicated funding to fulfill the health and safety requirements of SB 11 (86 R).
3. The state needs to fund and support service agreements between community mental health providers and school districts need to be funded and supported by the state. Students should have access to comprehensive multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) that meet their needs, provide a continuum of care as they move between educational settings, and reduce the time they spend waiting for services.

ACCOUNTABILITY

1. In order to prioritize instructional time and reduce high-stakes Testing, the State of Texas should replace state testing with a formative universal screening tool and eliminate state testing to only those areas required by ESSA.
2. Expand and diversify accountability measures by including a school climate indicator and quality components aligning with community needs and values.
3. All educational institutions receiving public funds should be held to equitable and transparent accountability standards.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

1. The State of Texas must honor high-quality teachers by ensuring that salaries increase proportionately with inflation and affordable healthcare insurance mirrors benefits packages offered to state governmental employees.
2. The State of Texas should remove retirement-related penalties to ensure all students experience reasonable class sizes and experienced teachers.
3. Due to the national teacher shortage, the State of Texas should incentivize districts that run alternatively certified teacher/certification assistance programs to increase the pool of certified teachers eligible for hire.