

Require alignment of higher education admissions requirements to the high school graduation requirements established by HB 5.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Support legislation that increases support and the quality of existing state resources provided to campuses/districts that do not meet state standards and allows local districts to oversee the operation of all schools, including those labeled “low performing.”

Support legislation that increases from 60 to 120 the minimum number of days that a refugee/asylee must be enrolled in a U.S. school before that enrollment year can count as “year one” in their progress toward meeting state testing standards.

Support legislation that allows independent school districts to use accountability information to hold themselves accountable to their communities rather than a one-size-fits-all state mandate.

Support legislation that repeals the “A-F” accountability rating system as this has been shown in other states to be a failure.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Support legislation that aligns the commissioner process for expansion of existing charters to the charter authorization process.

Support legislation that forces charter schools to serve a population of students similar to the area in which the school is located and to comply with the elements of TEC Chapter 37.

TRANSPARENCY

Oppose the improper expansion of ballot language designed to create confusion at the ballot box for taxpayers.

Hold open enrollment charter schools to the same standards for transparency that apply to other public schools.

Support legislation that requires any politically active organization to disclose their donors.

Texas State Representatives

To contact your State Representatives, direct your correspondence to:

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

Texas State Senators

To contact your State Senators, direct your correspondence to:

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



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2017 Legislative Priorities

*Benefitting students,
taxpayers, and employees*

August 2016



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District 5



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District 3



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Robert Blount, Jr.
Trustee,
District 4



Karen Freeman,
Trustee,
District 7



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

Please express your support of these Legislative Priorities to your elected officials who represent Northside ISD in the Texas Legislature.

NISD — Texas' fourth Largest and Bexar County's Largest School District

Northside ISD is the largest public school system in Bexar County with a 2016 – 2017 projected enrollment of 106,150 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. NISD is the fourth largest district in Texas and continues to be a high-growth district. About 1,500 new students enroll in Northside schools annually. Since 1995, voters have approved \$3.1 billion in bonds to build additional schools, renovate existing facilities, and add technology.

NISD — The Community and its Elected School Trustees

NISD Trustees represent approximately 210,000 households located in 355 square miles in northwest Bexar County and parts of Medina and Bandera counties. Seven single-member district Trustees advocate for the needs of more than 106,000 students, 13,000 employees, and 309,279 registered voters.

NISD — Mission Statement 2013 - 2018

The Northside Independent School District and our community will provide innovative, high-quality, diverse learning experiences for all students in an ever-changing world.

2017 Legislative Priorities Benefitting Students, Taxpayers, and Employees

The Northside Independent School District's Board of Trustees supports legislation that will provide a long-term solution to increase the state's funding capacity for public education to provide sufficient flexibility to address the diverse needs of each individual district, such as:

FINANCE

Outdated Funding Mechanisms

Support legislation that would fund student enrollment growth and tie funding weights for economically disadvantaged, at-risk, and English language learners to the actual cost to educate these students.

Support legislation that updates outdated formula elements like the cost-of-education index and the transportation allotment.

Growth Related Funding

Support legislation that provides funding for a Fast Growth Adjustment.

Support legislation that improves funding for facilities (Existing Debt Allotment & Instructional Facilities Allotment and New Instructional Facilities Allotment) to include a higher percentage of Texas students.

Teacher Retirement

Support measures to maintain a defined benefit plan for the Teacher Retirement System.

Support legislation that maintains funding to offset the increased cost of the legislatively-mandated increases in TRS contributions.

Restoration of Prior Cuts

Support legislation that adequately funds the Instructional Materials Allotment, recognizes the need for technology funding, and connects the allotment to the State Board approved adoption cycle.

Taxation

Support legislation that ties property value increases within a biennium to an increase in the basic allotment.

Support legislation that amends the statutes that allow for continued reductions for commercial/industrial property holders to less than market value through tax valuation lawsuits.

Programming Support

Support legislation that provides funding for full-day prekindergarten programs that includes resources for facilities.

Support legislation that provides funds to support the implementation of House Bill 5 from the 83rd session to include advising students, professional development, course development, and equipment purchases.

Support funding for the actual cost of providing any and all programs required in legislation, rules and/or regulations.

General Funding Priorities

Support legislation that allows locally elected school boards to set maintenance and operations tax rates without separate voter approval.

Support legislation that links state accountability standards and funding formulas.

Oppose private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, or any private program funded with public tax dollars.

Oppose any legislation that limits a district's ability to maintain a healthy fund balance, penalizes healthy fund balances, or dictates the use of fund balances.

Oppose the use of the Permanent School Fund to provide funding, credit enhancement, or financing for Charter School Facilities.

GOVERNANCE

Support legislation that maintains that a school district is governed by a locally elected board of trustees.

Support legislation that maintains local control over the length of the term of school board trustees and the date of the board elections.

ASSESSMENT

Use assessment results as a diagnostic tool to inform instructional decisions that support individual students rather than a high-stakes instrument for accountability purposes.