

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 2018-2019 enrollment of over 105,000 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Since 1995, voters have approved almost \$4 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 213,000 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 105,000 students, 14,000 employees, and 346,580 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.

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

- District 116 – Trey Martinez Fischer
- District 117 – Philip Cortez
- District 122 – Lyle Larson
- District 123 – Diego Bernal
- District 124 – Ina Minjarez
- District 125 – Justin Rodriguez

To contact your State Representatives, direct your correspondence or calls to:

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

TEXAS STATE SENATORS

- District 19 – Peter Flores
- District 25 – Donna Campbell
- District 26 – Jose Menendez

To contact your State Senators, 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 2019 Legislative Session, visit www.capitol.texas.gov



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2019 Legislative Priorities

*Benefitting students,
taxpayers, and employees*

November 2018



M'Lissa M. Chumbley
President,
District 3



Carol Harle, Ph.D.
Vice President,
District 6



Gerald B. Lopez
Secretary,
District 2



Joseph H. Medina
Trustee,
District 1



Robert Blount, Jr.
Trustee,
District 4



Katie N. Reed
Trustee,
District 5



Karen Freeman
Trustee,
District 7



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

2019 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, special needs, 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.

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.

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.

School Safety

Support additional and ongoing funding for the implementation of school safety measures with discretion at the local/district level.

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 pre-kindergarten programs that includes resources for facilities.

Support funding for the actual cost of providing any and all programs required in legislation, rules and/or regulations, and by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

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 to funding formulas.

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.

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

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

SCHOOL CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOLS

Support legislation that holds open enrollment charter schools and boards of charter schools to the same standards for transparency that apply to traditional public schools.

Support legislation that aligns the commissioner process for expansion of existing open enrollment charter schools 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.

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

Oppose the use of the Permanent School Fund to provide funding, credit enhancement, or financing for charter school facilities.

Support changes to accountability and transparency of charter schools including timely, well-advertised public hearing notices regarding charter expansion, reforming charter school wait lists, restructuring the application process through TEA, and limiting the approval of new charter schools based on proximity to traditional public schools.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Support legislation that repeals the "A-F" accountability system and replaces it with a system that is comprehensible, transparent, and mitigates for economically disadvantaged students.

Support legislation that increases from 60 to 120 the minimum number of days 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 increases support and the quality of existing state resources provided to schools that do not meet state 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 mandate.

Support legislation that aligns Texas with the U.S. Department of Education's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regulations.