



# Austin ISD Legislative Priorities

89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

# Adopted by Board of Trustees

- Input from AISD Advocacy Advisory Committee
- On-line Survey to Community
- June 20, 2024 - Fair Funding & Recapture Reform priorities adopted
- November 21, 2024 - Other priorities adopted





# Fair Funding

- Increase basic allotment; adjust for inflation
- Require that recapture dollars be spent on education & end practice of supplanting state's investment in education with recapture dollars
- Study on true cost of education
- Update allotments to reflect actual costs of the programs associated with each allotment
- Increase special education funding to cover the actual costs of providing *services [AISD underfunded by \$78,939,630]*
- Fund schools on basis of enrollment rather than attendance



# Recapture Reform

- Factor in the demographics of student population in the formula to determine amount of recapture paid by districts
- Commission study on impact of recapture on housing affordability
- Restore discount for districts that make early recapture payments
- Convert two copper pennies to two golden pennies(*golden pennies not subject to recapture*)
- Study to determine whether current system aligns with the original goals when recapture was created in 1983

# Public Accountability for Public Funds

- Oppose vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants and any other programs that divert public tax dollars to privately run schools
- Oppose vouchers, tax credits, taxpayer savings grants and any other programs that divert public tax dollars to private schools that are exempt from the state and federal accountability and admissions requirements applicable to public schools



# Public Accountability for Public Funds – Charter Schools



- Require charter schools to accept students regardless of documented histories of behavioral or attendance concerns
- Provide taxpayers with ample notice and information about prospective charter schools, their expansions, planned location, cost to the state, academic and financial records of the school; provide process for community input before charter is approved or expanded
- Authorize the SBOE to exercise veto authority over charter expansions approved by Commissioner of Education

# Accountability & Assessment

- Establish accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-choice exams to assessments that have value for students, parents and teachers, as well as flexible measures that local communities value
- Mandate a grace period of at least one year in the assignment of campus and district ratings following significant changes to STAAR/end-of/course exams and/or the accountability system
- Add a college career military readiness indicator for middle school to the accountability system



# Local Control & Governance

- Oppose unfunded mandates & infringements on local control
- Oppose measures that seek to limit school districts' ability to have representation before the Legislature, executive branch, and the judicial process
- Oppose legislation regarding bond elections that increases ballot language requirements, limits dates when elections are held, or creates additional requirements for voter-approved tax rate elections and bond elections, such as voter turnout thresholds







# Parent & Family Involvement

- Support the right of families to opt out as the preferred method of supporting a family that objects to materials, lessons, programs, events, or other services offered by school
- Oppose measures that would give one or a small number of families control over the resources or information available to other families' students

# Security & Safety

- Increase the school safety allotment to fully fund all mandates approved under HB 3 and expand the allowable uses of the allotment to include mental health services
  - *AISD's expenditures are \$15,990,675 and are reimbursed for only \$1,830,000 resulting in underfunded mandate of \$14,160,675*
- Establish a criminal offense for openly carrying a firearm on or within 300 feet of district property with intent or effect of creating a disruption to the educational environment





# Student Supports

- Increase funding for counselors for college and career counseling and mental health counseling
- Reduce use of exclusionary discipline and keep students in school whenever possible instead of disciplinary placements
- Protect and support an equitable education environment that values diversity of race, national origin, culture, gender, religions, immigration status
- Oppose ability of state to restrict programs in school districts that promote acceptance and respect for all students

# Teachers

- Oppose legislation that undermines the professionalism of teachers, such as eliminating the requirement that teachers have college degrees or mandate curriculum that narrows educator's ability to adapt lessons in response to local needs
- Oppose onerous administrative requirements on teachers to post class materials and activities online
- Support measures that minimize the time teachers are out of the classroom with their students



# Bills That Support AISD Priorities

- <https://www.austinisd.org/legislature>
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