



LAKE TRAVIS ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Texas 88th Regular Session, 2023

The Lake Travis Independent School District supports legislation that seeks to improve public school education in an impactful and innovative way. LTISD advocates for the following Legislative Priorities:

SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING

- Increase the basic allotment which has not been adjusted since 2019. The Consumer Price Index has increased 12% since 2019.
- Restore full funding of the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMA).
- Increase capacity of the Fast Growth Allotment to address the growing statewide need and reduce proration.
- Protect the New Instructional Facility Allotment (NIFA) allocation for its intended use rather than diverting the funding to other programs.
- Eliminate penalties on school districts that provide local property tax relief to homeowners.
- Fund schools based on total enrollment instead of average daily attendance (ADA); enrollment is an indicator of true educational cost.
- Protect district fund balances from being utilized to balance the state budget.
- Provide funding for unfunded mandates.

SUPPORT OUR STAFF

- Prioritize funding and incentives for teacher and staff recruitment and retention that offers flexibility for districts to address local staffing needs.
- Provide sufficient resources to help attract and retain staff including affordable healthcare and benefits.
- Incentivize individuals to pursue a career in education by providing financial incentives.
- Fully fund the Teacher Retirement System with adjustments for inflation.

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

- Advocate for a comprehensive accountability system consisting of meaningful and varied assessments that add value for students, parents and teachers, as well as flexible measures that local communities value.
- Base accountability on the growth of the whole child, not just one segment of a growth measure.
- Support increased funding for special education students based on needs and services provided as opposed to the amount of time spent in special education settings.
- Continue to focus on addressing learning loss due to absenteeism from the pandemic without tying the hands of districts and educators.
- Provide a new allotment for mental health and wellness for students.

SUPPORT LOCAL CONTROL

- Maintain the ability of local governments to hold elections on the two uniform election dates in May and November.
- Ensure all bond and tax rate election ballot language is clear, transparent, and understandable. Revise language that misleads voters.
- Reduce recapture payments for property wealthy school districts to allow for local control to address the needs of students and staff.
- Maintain the District of Innovation designation and expand flexibilities to best support local needs.
- Increase the School Safety Allotment with maintained flexibility to spend the funds to fit the needs of local school districts including mental health and wellness.