



2023 Legislative Agenda for the Second Special Session ***Finance and Accountability***

2023 Legislative Priorities:

- Identify state revenue sources to sustain the finance system authorized through HB 3 and to continue buying down school district M&O tax rates.
- Require a complete recalibration of the accountability system in 2023.

School Finance: *The state's school funding model does not fully meet the state's education needs or account for recent challenges related to inflation and human capital. Legislation is needed that provides funding for public education to fully meet the mission and objectives described in Texas Education Code, Section 4.001 and the 60x30TX higher education plan. The 88th Texas Legislature should:*

School Funding:

1. Increase the basic allotment for inflation. School districts' expenses have increased dramatically due to inflation and compensation, but the basic allotment and state funding have remained unchanged.
2. Increase existing allotments like the School Safety Allotment and Technology and Instructional Materials Allotment. Enhancing security necessitates additional funding, and additional funding for technology is required as districts like Arlington ISD increase technology access for students.
3. Keep funding for public schools public. Reject legislation that diverts public funds to private institutions that are not accountable to the public for the use of those funds. Direct efforts to expand choice in education to public schools that are held accountable for their performance and are transparent in their use of taxpayer dollars.
4. Base funding on enrollment rather than attendance.

Unfinished Learning: *The unfinished learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is real. Arlington ISD has addressed it head on, and our students are making tremendous progress. Still, there is work to be done and the State can help further the progress school districts have already made. The 88th Legislature should:*

1. Revamp the accountability system to reduce an over-reliance on STAAR testing in elementary and middle school grade bands as a measure for successful schools.