

ALAMO HEIGHTS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



AHISD values fully-funded school districts and local control of and accountability for the performance of our schools. Based on these values, we set forth these legislative priorities for 2024-2025. These priorities provide for specific actions that our elected representatives can take this session to improve Texas public schools, and provide background to enable our community to advocate on behalf of our district and schools.

1. Increase State funding for public schools

The Legislature must provide for an adequate and equitable school finance system that raises per pupil funding to at least the national average, that limits the impact of inflation on our students, that keeps qualified teachers in the classroom, and that fully funds state required mandates (such as the requirement for Security Resource Officers at each campus). We oppose any expansion of charter schools or private school voucher programs that rely on local property taxes. We also continue to oppose the “Robin Hood” recapture system currently in place which takes property tax dollars earmarked for education from certain school districts and reallocates those dollars to the State general fund. We believe that these objectives could be largely met through these four common sense measures:

- **Ensure an adjustment to the per pupil basic allotment in order to address inflation and bring our state per pupil funding to at least the national average. This increase is not only reasonable and necessary to adequately provide for our schools, but is financially accomplishable given the unprecedented state budget surplus.**
- **Require public school funding to be based on enrollment rather than attendance.**
- **Fully fund any state mandated programs and initiatives.**
- **Restore the Available School Fund to all school districts by exempting it from recapture formulas.**

2. Balance State oversight with community-based accountability.

Local accountability for AHISD Trustees means being accountable to our community for outcomes to prepare our children for college, career, and life. Accountability should not be over-reliant on high-stakes, single-day testing (such as STAAR testing) but should include meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers, and include what our local community values for our children. A community-based accountability system, if appropriately developed and maintained, provides a better measure of school performance than a single grade based on a single test administered on a single day.

- **Allow school districts, or at least districts of innovation, to petition TEA for approval to replace the state A-F accountability system with a locally-developed, community-based accountability system.**

3. Enlist community support to help with advocacy efforts in Austin.

AHISD Trustees believe there is power in a collective community voice in advocacy for this 89th legislative session. We will work to educate AHISD community members to help articulate our unique needs to our Legislators in Austin throughout the session on behalf of our students and staff.