

2022 - 2023

DALLAS ISD LEGISLATIVE Agenda*

I. SCHOOL SAFETY

As Dallas ISD's top priority is the safety and security of its students and staff, the district seeks an **increase** in the state's School Safety Allotment to a total of \$200 per student, which currently stands at \$9.72.

Dallas spends approximately \$210 per student to maintain a safe school environment and, even then, more needs to be done to ensure student and staff safety. The additional funding would be used to implement the district's overall safety plan.

II. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS STUDENT LEARNING LOSS, TEACHER SHORTAGE, AND COST OF INFLATION

Dallas ISD seeks an increase in the Basic Allotment to address the ongoing escalation of costs incurred since the last increase four years ago, including catching up students academically as a result of the pandemic, and addressing the cost of inflation. Inflation has not only impacted the cost of living for staff members as individuals, but also for school districts to cover operating costs for items such as fuel, utilities, supplies and services.

Dallas ISD seeks the following:

- Raise the Basic Allotment by **\$200 per student** to give every district in Texas the opportunity to accommodate rising costs, including staff salary increases which should also address the teacher shortage
- For more reliable and predictable funding, base state funding on a district's enrollment rather than on Average Daily Attendance
- Allow school districts to receive a **10% discount** by making early recapture payments
- Allow school districts to access additional golden pennies
- Additional funding to support high-performing teachers through the state's Teacher Incentive Allotment

FACT: Dallas ISD now pays \$98 million in Recapture, up from \$0 in 2017-18 and \$17.8 million in 2019-20. That figure is expected to rise to \$349 million in 2025-26.

III. ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY OF TAX DOLLARS

Public tax dollars directed toward education should only fund public schools with clear systems of accountability in place. The diversion of tax dollars to schools unaccountable to taxpayers takes needed resources out of public school classrooms, hurts districts' ability to pay their teachers and staff, and reduces transparency for the use of public tax dollars. Dallas ISD opposes all efforts to use public dollars to support a voucher program.

IV. PRESERVE LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

A vast, diverse state cannot answer every challenge with state-mandated solutions. Locally elected, locally accountable school boards need flexibility to meet the needs of their students, manage taxpayer resources, conduct elections, and respond to the needs and priorities of their communities.

V. PRE-K FUNDING

School districts like Dallas ISD, which serve students from low-income families and, in some cases, extreme poverty, seek the resources to get these children into Pre-K as early as three years old, since it dramatically increases their potential and achievement throughout their academic life. If full funding is not viable statewide, provide full funding to Pre-K for students in Tiers 4 and 5 of poverty.

Currently, Dallas ISD has to add **\$13.3 million** over what it receives through the state's Early Education Allotment and half-day ADA to serve its nearly 10,000 students enrolled in Pre-K.

* Pending Dallas ISD Board of Trustees final approval in January 2023