



## **2019 Legislative Priorities**

The legislative priorities submitted here are in alignment with the mission of Texas State Government as well as the mission of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District. These priorities are subsumed under three overarching categories: Assessment and Accountability; Curriculum, Instruction and Graduation; and Funding Public Schools.

### **Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District Mission**

*The mission of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District is to continue its proud tradition of excellence as a diverse, high-performing organization committed to ensuring each student is empowered today to excel tomorrow.*

### ***Assessment and Accountability***

- 1) Align and integrate all accountability systems so districts and campuses obtain full results simultaneously, reducing the duplication of effort and associated costs now required in campus/district planning, sanctions/interventions, and/or reporting requirements.
- 2) Focus on student growth as the most significant component of accountability.
- 3) Remove SSI grade advancement requirements tied to state standardized assessments in reading and math for grades 5 and 8.
- 4) Eliminate the third administration of grades 5 and 8 reading and math STAAR, which would also eliminate the unfunded mandate of accelerated instruction prior to the third administration.
- 5) Require the state to fully fund ESSA required higher-level exams (SAT, ACT) for students taking Algebra 1 EOC prior to grade nine.
- 6) Expand the list of dual credit courses counting for CCMR credit.
- 7) Move the standard for Domain 3: Closing the Gaps to the approaches level for AEA campuses.
- 8) Provide consistency in the Accountability System by staying constant with current Domains and Targets.
- 9) Publish the Accountability Manual by September 15 of the current school year.

### ***Curriculum, Instruction and Graduation***

- 1) Make permanent the provision allowing students to graduate through the recommendation of the Individual Graduation Committee when successfully completing all curriculum requirements, if passing at least three end-of-course assessments.
- 2) Continue to align the Proclamations to the TEKS revision cycles in order to reduce inefficient rework caused because of misaligned timelines.

- 3) Ensure the CTE certification list represents all CTE programs equally and honors both higher level and entry level certifications.
- 4) Provide an effective communication and approval process as new and/or innovative courses need to be added to endorsement areas.
- 5) Support early childhood education for all Texas children.

### ***Funding Public Schools***

- 1) Index school funding for inflation in order to provide additional resources for inflationary cost increases or allow local school districts to raise sufficient revenue to cover inflationary cost increases without going to the voters.
- 2) Provide revenue increases for inflation-based raises, health insurance premium increases, and/or TRS increases. HEB ISD achieves high performance levels as a result of its high quality employees. Those employees should not have to experience a reduction in their net paycheck due to lack of state funding.
- 3) Relax spending and other mandated requirements for school districts that consistently perform at or above the state average. Ex: compliance spending and class size requirements
- 4) Adequately fund mandated requirements that financially impact Texas school districts. For example, technology required for online testing needs to be funded.
- 5) If the legislature considers a funding swap, ensure the long-term adequacy of the replacement source.
- 6) If the legislature chooses to redirect public education funding, ensure the same mandates and requirements placed on public education are also placed on non-public education funding recipients. These legal requirements and mandates are significant cost drivers. Or alternatively relax the requirements on public education to equal those of a private entity supported with public funds.
- 7) Provide adequate funding for the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA).

Adequately fund the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) to ensure districts are able to meet increasing costs and adequately fund required materials adoptions with no specific designated spending requirements. Designated spending, such as designating IMA for technology, is counter to local control and inhibits effective and efficient operations at the district level.

While HEB ISD supports the flexibility provided by the IMA, we urge the state to provide adequate funding in order to meet the needs of the upcoming Proclamation 2019 as well as fill gaps in materials due to the TEKS ongoing revision cycle.