

Please express your support of these Legislative Priorities to your elected officials who represent Northside ISD in the Texas Legislature.

Texas' fourth largest and Bexar County's largest school district

Northside ISD is the largest public school system in Bexar County with a 2020-2021 enrollment of over 103,000 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Since 1995, voters have approved almost \$4 billion in bonds to build additional schools, renovate existing facilities, add technology, and upgrade safety and security.

The Community and its Elected School Board of Trustees

Northside ISD Trustees represent approximately 218,000 households located in 355 square miles in northwest Bexar County and parts of Medina and Bandera counties. Seven single-member district Trustees advocate for the needs of more than 103,000 students, 14,000 employees, and 346,580 registered voters.

Mission Statement

At Northside ISD, our mission is to transform the learning experience for students so that every day, every student grows in confidence, curiosity, and capability.



TEXAS HOUSE

- District 116 – Trey Martinez Fischer
- District 117 – Philip Cortez
- District 122 – Lyle Larson
- District 123 – Diego Bernal
- District 124 – Ina Minjarez
- District 125 – Ray Lopez

To contact your State Representative, direct your correspondence or calls to:

The Honorable (Full Name)
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

TEXAS SENATE

- District 19 – Roland Gutierrez
- District 25 – Donna Campbell
- District 26 – José Menéndez

To contact your State Senator, direct your correspondence or calls to:

The Honorable (Full Name)
Texas Senate Capitol Station
PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

To stay informed on legislation during the 2021 Legislative Session, visit www.capitol.texas.gov



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2021 Legislative Priorities

*Benefitting students,
taxpayers, and employees*



Carol Harle, Ph.D.
President,
District 6



Karen Freeman,
Vice President,
District 7



Joseph H. Medina
Secretary,
District 1



Gerald B. Lopez
Trustee,
District 2



M'Lissa M.
Chumbley
Trustee,
District 3



Robert Blount, Jr.
Trustee,
District 4



Katie N. Reed
Trustee,
District 5



Brian T. Woods,
Ed.D.
Superintendent,
Northside ISD

2021 Legislative Priorities

Benefitting students, taxpayers, and employees

The Northside Independent School District Board of Trustees supports legislation that protects the whole infrastructure of the Public School System in Texas to include full state funding, transparency of all taxpayer-funded public schools, fair and responsible student assessments, and local control to address the diverse needs of each individual school district.

We respectfully ask the 87th Legislature to:

FINANCE

- Protect all programs and funding in HB 3 (86R).
- Extend the deadline for teachers and principals (grades K-3) to complete the teacher literacy achievement academy as mandated in HB 3 (86R).
- Study the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the certification process of families qualifying for the National School Lunch Program, resulting in a loss of data to measure the needs of educationally disadvantaged students who qualify for compensatory education funding.
- Adequately fund the Instructional Materials Allotment, recognizing the need for additional technology funding, including newfound needs for digital connectivity, and connect the allotment to the State Board of Education adoption cycle.
- Protect and expand funding for SB 11 (86R) that addresses school safety, trauma-informed care, and mental health resources in schools; allowing discretion at the local level.
- Fund the actual cost of providing any and all programs required in legislation, rules and/or regulations, and by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

- Protect a district's ability to maintain a healthy fund balance without penalties or mandates on use of said balance.
- Maintain a defined benefit plan for the Teacher Retirement System (TRS).
- Maintain funding to offset the increased cost of legislatively-mandated increases in TRS contributions.

SCHOOL CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Support legislation that amends the State Virtual School Network (TEC Chapter 30A) to allow school districts fair access to funding, curriculum, programs, and services so they may offer students the choice to attend school virtually part-time or full-time.
- Hold open enrollment charter schools and boards of charter schools to the same standards of transparency that apply to traditional public schools.
- Support legislation that aligns the commissioner process for expansion of existing open enrollment charter schools to the charter authorization process, including an analysis of the charter school's cost to the Permanent School Fund and its impact on surrounding school district funding and anticipated enrollment growth.
- Support legislation that forces charter schools to serve a population of students similar to the area in which the school is located and to comply with the elements of TEC Chapter 37.
- Oppose private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, grants, or any private education program funded by public tax dollars including the use of the Permanent School Fund for funding, credit enhancement, or financing of charter school facilities.
- Support changes to accountability and transparency of charter schools including timely, well-advertised public hearing notices regarding charter expansion/amendment requests, reforming charter school wait lists, restructuring the application process through TEA, and limiting the approval of new charter schools based on proximity to traditional public schools.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Allow school districts to use accountability information to hold themselves accountable to their communities rather than a one-size-fits-all mandate, which will break the chain of consecutive years of unacceptable ratings held over from 2019 for purposes of accountability interventions and sanctions, with consideration for the complex effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and STAAR test results generated by:
 - Two consecutive school years disrupted by mandatory school closures/tiered in-person learning;
 - Mixed student response to virtual learning; and
 - Challenges of engaging virtual learners.
- Use assessment results as a diagnostic tool to inform instructional decisions that support individual students rather than a high-stakes instrument for accountability purposes.
- Reinforce statute regarding campus rating standards to ensure the distinction between "forced failure" ratings of "D" and "F".
 - Multiple-year unacceptable status should only apply to overall performance for campuses or districts; and
 - Each district or campus should receive the rating that is calculated via the scaling process and methodology with no special provisions.
- Encourage the Commissioner of Education to strictly follow statute as outlined in HB 22 (85R) to allow boards to develop and implement local accountability plans.

GOVERNANCE

- Allow school boards to maintain all powers and duties to govern their respective school districts if not otherwise outlined in statute and not allow a state agency or other entity to impede on those powers and duties.
- Allow school boards to set maintenance and operations tax rates without separate voter approval.