



Katy ISD Legislative Priorities

#KatyISDEdLeg

SCHOOL FINANCE

The Problem:

The state has not changed the Basic Allotment per student for the past three years, while many state revenue streams remained capped. These two variables, alongside continued economic inflation, prevent school districts from making meaningful investments in teacher and staff pay and the growing educational needs of students.

We Support:

- ✓ Developing a formula driven index that increases the Basic Allotment and keeps up with inflation.

STATE TESTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

The Problem:

The state's accountability (A-F) system is disproportionately based on a single end-of-year STAAR. Meanwhile, the state's mandate to administer online STAAR tests for elementary students is impractical, as many of these students are not yet proficient using a computer.

We Support:

- ✓ Administering real-time district-based assessments that track individual progress and inform instructional practices.
- ✓ Reducing the number of state required assessments.
- ✓ Using alternative assessments (i.e. PSAT, SAT, ACT) in lieu of required EOC assessments.
- ✓ Allowing school districts to customize the way in which special education students engage with the STAAR assessment.
- ✓ Allowing parents the option for their students to take the STAAR online or via paper and pencil.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

The Problem:

Insufficient pay and excessive workloads are driving teachers out of the workforce.

We Support:

- ✓ Decreasing the burdensome mandates that increase teachers' daily workload.
- ✓ Increasing school funding for teacher compensation.
- ✓ Temporarily suspending all penalties for hiring retired teachers through 2025.
- ✓ The state subsidizing college tuition for students studying K-12 education to build a pipeline of future teachers.

HOUSE BILL 4545

The Problem:

The unfunded mandates set forth by HB 4545 place an undue burden on students and staff and assume quality intervention by school districts is not already being provided to students.

We Support:

- ✓ Requiring remediation interventions for Math and Reading content areas only.
- ✓ Offering necessary remedial support through special education students' existing Intensive Program of Instruction (IPI) process.
- ✓ Increasing the size of the small group instruction model required by HB 4545 from three (3) students per teacher, to 8-10 students per teacher.