

The mission of Fort Worth ISD is to ensure all students graduate from high school prepared for success in college, career, and community leadership. COVID-19 does not change our mission, but it profoundly changes how we educate our children.

Please join us in informing our Texas Legislators of what this new era of education will require, so that Fort Worth ISD and all public schools have the resources needed to grow our state's future workforce and leaders.



Legislators

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FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Legislative Priorities

FOR THE **87th** Legislative Session

Accountability – A-F Ratings

- Accountability ratings should be frozen for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Expand Domain I or create a 4th Domain that would recognize non-test indicators, such as climate survey, CBE, credit for Pre-AP and Pre-IB, skip a grade, academic distinctions, UIL, etc.

School Finance/HB 3

- Support funding promises of HB 3, understanding the budget shortfall that is expected. If cuts have to be made, the tax rate compression must be addressed simultaneously. The Legislature cannot make cuts to public education without making cuts to the property tax compression requirements.
- If cuts to HB 3 are necessary, Fort Worth ISD recommends placing a moratorium on new provisions, such as reading academies, teacher incentive allotment, CCMR and outcomes-based funding. These provisions should be on hold until funding is restored.
- We must re-enact the statute language prior to HB 3 that says the state must provide funding to those ISDs that lost money during a

disaster. This language was changed in HB 3 to say that the state “may” providing funding in cases of disaster.

- School Districts must have reliable and stable funding; therefore, Fort Worth ISD recommends the use of funding on district average daily enrollment (as opposed to attendance). As an alternative, we recommend using the October 2019 ADA snapshot for funding 2020/21 school year. This will provide a “known” quantity of funding for our school, and it is the most reliable at this point.

Distance Learning/Connectivity

- Maintain the autonomy between school districts and their students/parents/community. We oppose efforts by the state to distract or complicate the ability of districts serving our students, particularly in the area of distance learning. Fort Worth ISD is capable of providing the instruction to our students, whether it is in the classroom, on-line, or a mixture of both.
- Require the State to provide broadband/WIFI to all students. School districts cannot serve our students unless they have access to consistent and reliable connectivity.

- As additional means to providing connectivity to our students, the State should require telecom discounts, and or tax incentives for suppliers who provide broadband/WIFI to school districts and their students.
- Require the State to provide necessary resources for staff training, additional certification, and /or digital learning academies for teachers providing virtual instruction.

COVID-19 Watch List

- Transportation allotment recognition that, in pandemic circumstances, school districts are not penalized if multiple trips are required to transport students under social distancing requirements.
- Watch this fall for possible RIF actions due to state finance reductions to determine if any statutory changes are needed.
- Additional resources will be necessary regarding monitoring student illness, such as more school nurses, more medical equipment to identify illness, more equipment overall to maintain social distancing, more custodians to maintain sanitized buildings, classrooms, etc.

