

89th Legislative Session Agenda

SCHOOL FUNDING

Our Position: Texas public schools are currently experiencing a perfect storm of funding impacts. The significant rise in inflation since 2019, the expansion of state mandates, and declining enrollment have forced Arlington ISD, and districts across the state, to adopt deficit budgets. We embrace the opportunity to work with legislators on solutions that put Texas back on track to funding our students at previously attained levels.

ACADEMIC GROWTH

Our Position: *Students and staff in Texas deserve an educational experience that promotes academic growth and inspires students to learn both content and skills that prepare them for a bright future. Arlington ISD students receive exceptional experiences through daily classroom instruction and expansive program offerings. We welcome the opportunity to showcase our strengths and identify areas for growth through accountability. We believe that a comprehensive system, beyond standardized testing, will enhance transparency in school performance and provide a more accurate picture of the valuable services schools offer. **We ask our legislators to focus on proven academic supports and a viable accountability system.***

Utilize a fair, transparent accountability system for all schools in Texas that receive public funds.

Reduce the over-reliance on STAAR as a measure for student and school success in the accountability system.

Accelerate access to research-based early childhood learning through enrollment-based funding for full-day pre-K for all 4-year-old students.

Continue to allow local school districts the autonomy to adopt TEKS-aligned instructional resources that best reflect our student population.

*The Texas Education Agency points out that “the board and superintendent work together as a team to provide the best possible education for the students they serve.” **We urge our legislators to respect and preserve the autonomy of our locally elected trustees, empowering them to lead in the best interests of our students and communities, securing a brighter future for Texas.***