

ECTOR COUNTY ISD

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

"Believing our students are the future, the mission of Ector County ISD is to inspire and challenge every student to be prepared for success and to be adaptable in an ever-changing society."

1) HUMAN CAPITAL

- Support technical assistance for the development and implementation of creative staffing solutions such as Opportunity Culture
- Support technical assistance for ISDs seeking to create their own Educator Preparation Program (EPP)
- Provide funding for ISDs/colleges/universities to develop and implement a fully paid teacher residency and/or teacher apprenticeship program
- Incentivize partnerships between ISDs and colleges/universities to create teacher pipelines and incorporate funding for candidates
- Create a program targeting the top 20% of high school graduates in Texas and incentivize them to become teachers by providing a full scholarship coupled with a commitment to teach for a specified period of time at a high poverty/hard to staff school in Texas
- Support the creation of a Principal Incentive Allotment (PIA) to attract and retain high performing principals
- Increase the Teacher Incentive Allotment category for National Board Certified Teachers from Recognized to Exemplary

2) SCHOOL FINANCE

- Increase the basic allotment to enable ISDs to invest in teacher compensation and other areas to improve student achievement
- Index basic allotment to inflation
- Fund using school enrollment rather than average daily attendance (ADA)
- Increase school safety allotment and allow for local discretion, include mental health funding, and fully fund minimum campus safety standards
- Make a one-time adjustment for inflation from 2019 through 2022

3) USE DATA GENERATED FROM ESSER INVESTMENTS TO INFORM FUTURE FUNDING DECISIONS

School districts across Texas, including Ector County ISD, have made investments in education using ESSER funds. Many of these investments have produced positive results and are worthy of continued funding from the Texas Legislature. From teacher education pipelines to high dosage tutoring for students, many of these programs will end with the conclusion of ESSER funds. We propose that these investments be studied for their effectiveness and supported financially, when applicable.

4) IMPROVE TEXAS A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Accountability is important, and we believe in holding ourselves accountable for the work we do with the students we serve. We believe that the current A-F Accountability System is too reliant on the STAAR assessment placing undue pressure on students and teachers. We believe the system should include factors beyond the STAAR assessment and more effectively measure the development of the whole child. Raise Your Hand Texas has conducted significant work in this area, and we fully support their policy recommendations.

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5) REDESIGN THE CHAPTER 313 AGREEMENT PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Chapter 313 was an effective way to attract businesses to the state of Texas by providing tax incentives. Communities and school districts benefited from these agreements as they improved the local economy and contributed to the financial capacity of school districts. We support a redesign and implementation of Chapter 313.

6) OPPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOUCHER PROGRAMS OR ANY ACTION SIMILAR IN NAME OR NATURE

Public school funds are already severely limited. Removing funds that support the education of Texas children in public schools would be detrimental to the work ISDs must do to ensure each child receives a quality education.

7) LIMIT CHARTER EXPANSION AND MOVE THE CHARTER APPROVAL PROCESS TO LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

Ector County ISD currently partners with multiple charter schools to effectively serve the students within our community. These partnerships through SB 1882 have been valuable to our organization as we do this work together. In addition, charter schools designed for innovation have been able to foster similar innovation within the ISD community. The expansion of charter schools beyond district partnerships and innovation can be harmful to school districts and communities. We propose the charter school approval process be the sole responsibility of those elected to meet the academic needs of their communities, local school boards.

WE SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF:

- *Teacher Incentive Allotment*
- *Districts of Innovation*

The Teacher Incentive Allotment and Districts of Innovation have provided significant opportunities for Ector County ISD in the area of Human Capital. We are able to attract, recruit, retain and develop high quality educators in our system to better serve our students. Our teacher vacancy rate has decreased from 18% in 2019 to 1% in 2022, and these two opportunities are central to our Human Capital strategy. We fully support their continuation.

