



Katy ISD Legislative Priorities

Katy ISD's seven-member Board of Trustees each appointed two members to serve on its Legislative Priorities Advisory Committee to further explore and establish agenda language pertaining to each issue highlighted by our community.

A clear and overriding theme became evident throughout the survey findings and discussions among the Committee members. Excessive oversight and regulations by state government impede the ability of high performing school districts such as Katy ISD to efficiently and effectively address the academic needs of its students, professional support of classroom teachers, and its fiscal accountability to taxpayers.

Unfunded Mandates

The State of Texas should provide additional funding for staff, materials, equipment, building space, and other provisions needed for local school districts to provide any new or additional mandated services.

- Unfunded mandates imposed by the State of Texas disproportionately impact local property taxpayers — placing a greater burden on citizens to bear the costs of public education and relieving the State of its responsibility to adequately fund it.

Equitable accountability and transparency for all State funded education

The State of Texas should impose the same accountability and regulatory standards on all state funded schools, including public school districts, charter schools, and any voucher or other similar programs receiving any state funding.

- The vast majority of students in the State of Texas are, and will remain, enrolled in public schools. This is the primary delivery method for the constitutionally required “efficient system of public free schools.”
- Allowing different accountability and regulatory standards for other publicly funded education methods will dramatically undercut the financial and

operational ability of the public school system to meet the current and future needs of Texas students.

Streamline TEKS and delay the implementation of the new statewide accountability system

The State of Texas should suspend all punitive components of the statewide accountability system. There is no independent, statistically reliable analysis that correlates the TEKS to STAAR testing to what students should have mastered at grade level or whether the STAAR test even accurately measures grade level.

- The State of Texas should permit school districts to develop or use a professionally-assessed statistically reliable testing program to replace STAAR testing beginning with the 2018-2019 academic term.

Removing the state's 8.5% cap for students receiving special education services.

The State of Texas should eliminate the Texas Education Agency's imposition of an 8.5% cap for the percent of students allowed to receive special education services.

- All students who qualify for special education services should be eligible to receive those needed resources.
- Costs associated with the anticipated increase in special education services should be borne by the State of Texas and not shifted to the local taxpayer.