

TEXAS SCHOOL COALITION PRIORITIES

# State Funding for Education

*Invest in all students by increasing the Basic Allotment.*



## A WELL-EDUCATED WORKFORCE FUELS ECONOMIC GROWTH.

- A knowledgeable, skilled workforce attracts jobs and investments.
- With the ninth-largest economy in the world, Texas must produce a workforce that will meet the needs of our private-sector economy — now and in the future.
- Texas public schools enroll 5.5 million students and are the greatest source of future workers in Texas.
- Well-funded schools can offer a variety of programs and classes to meet the needs and interests of their diverse student populations.

## TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACE A FUNDING SHORTAGE.

- Legislators have not increased the Basic Allotment — the core unit of public education funding in Texas — since 2019.
- Public education funding in Texas has decreased \$9.8 billion since 2019 when adjusted for population and inflation, according to the Legislative Budget Board.
- This funding shortage has forced school districts to reduce staff, eliminate programs, and close some campuses — all cuts that shift more of the cost of training future workers onto employers.

## THE BASIC ALLOTMENT FUNDS TEACHER PAY RAISES, SPECIAL EDUCATION, SAFETY AND OTHER PRIORITIES.

- Inflation has put a squeeze on the Basic Allotment dollars available to school districts, as more of those dollars have gone toward rising costs for utilities, insurance, and other expenses.
- Basic Allotment dollars address schools' most urgent needs, from retaining teachers to improving instruction.
- An increase in the Basic Allotment would allow school districts to direct dollars where they are needed most — in alignment with community priorities.

## RAISING THE BASIC ALLOTMENT WOULD RESULT IN A STRONGER WORKFORCE.

- Additional funding would allow school districts to recruit and retain their best teachers so that all students receive a quality education.
- Well-funded schools are able to meet the diverse needs of students, so that all students are ready for college, careers, or military service.
- Additional funding would create more opportunities for students to explore interests, fields of study, and careers so that they have pathways to success after high school.

# 63%

of business executives considered **"skilled labor availability"** the most important factor when deciding where to invest in a new location.

– Site Selection Magazine