Priorities for the 90th Legislature

TEXAS SCHOOL COALITION
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Fund *what the state requires.* ***Simplify*** *how schools deliver it.*
Show *Texans where their tax dollars go.*

FUND THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT THE STATE REQUIRES AND WHAT IT PAYS

- The 89th Legislature allocated $8.5 billion to public schools, and most funding was designated for specific purposes. The Basic Allotment, the most flexible funding for districts, rose by just $55 to $6,215, while keeping up with inflation since 2019 would require over $8,000.
- Fund the special education and school safety requirements the state sets at what they actually cost districts. Special education enrollment has grown 70% since 2018–19, to more than 900,000 students, and new safety laws added requirements with no estimate of what they cost districts.
- Modernize attendance-based funding so districts are not penalized for absences they excuse and document, and reward districts that meet accountability, financial and attendance goals.
- Provide full funding for mandated full-day pre-K programs, which are currently only partially supported by reallocated early childhood education funds. Expanding eligibility to all district staff children would also support recruitment and retention.

SIMPLIFY COMPLIANCE SO MORE DOLLARS REACH THE CLASSROOM

- More than 130 significant state mandates apply to school districts, many of them unfunded or underfunded.
- Replace complex, short-term hold-harmless provisions with predictable, permanent funding formulas that school districts can rely on during annual budget planning.
- Make property tax reporting simple for taxpayers and districts alike: consolidate overlapping bond and tax-rate reporting requirements.

SHOW WHERE EVERY SCHOOL TAX DOLLAR GOES

- Deduct full appraisal district costs and property casualty premiums from recapture obligations, and reinstate the early payment discount.
- Require appraisal districts to show all taxing units, with each annual invoice, how their prior-year payments were spent, credited back or held in reserve.
- Provide taxpayers a way to follow their recapture payments on the state's existing *Property Tax Transparency in Texas* web portal.
- Ensure recaptured revenue adds to public school funding rather than replacing state dollars.

SUPPORT TAX RELIEF THAT PROTECTS SCHOOL FUNDING

- The state has committed $51 billion to property tax relief in 2026–27. TSC supports continued relief that protects public school funding now and in the future.
- Ensure tax relief policies safeguard complete formula entitlements, offset lost local revenues with reliable funds aligned to enrollment and inflation, and preserve voter-approved bond and Tier 2 enrichment support.
- Require every property tax relief bill, the state's education savings account program, and new data center exemption requests to report their effect on recapture, so lawmakers and taxpayers can see how recaptured dollars are used.
- If data centers move into a community with the help of tax exemptions, ensure they give back, starting with local public schools.

Read more about our priorities.

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