

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERIM OF THE 81st SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on October 26, 2009

FINANCE

Spring Branch believes that the current funding system needs to be modified to provide funding to meet cost increases caused by

- Inflation
- growth, and
- changes in student demographics.

To meet these needs, the school finance system must include

- A biennially updated index that captures all district costs, including weighted student groups.
- Annual increases in state funding to meet cost increases due to the combination of growth and inflation.

In addition, the finance system should

- Permit unlimited local voter-approved enrichment to allow school districts to supplement funding to meet community expectations, and
- Eliminate Chapter 41 recapture, including the recapture of voter approved local enrichment.
- Provide formula funding for optional full day pre-kindergarten for all students.

ACCOUNTABILITY

While House Bill 3 passed during the 81st Legislative Session made progress toward improving the State's accountability system, Spring Branch believes that further changes are necessary. Specifically, Spring Branch believes that the current accountability system should be modified to address the following:

- The accountability system should have as its sole focus the goal of ensuring that all students complete high school and are prepared, without remediation, to obtain a two-year Associate's, a technical certification, or a four-year Baccalaureate Degree.
- The accountability system should assess students based on annual academic, non-academic growth and development of 21st Century workforce skills.
- The accountability system should utilize multiple assessments.
- The accountability system should reward success based on overall student performance.
- The accountability system should mandate corrective action for chronically deficient performance in student sub-populations.