

The Lewisville ISD Board Legislative priorities for the Special Session called by Governor Abbott on October 10, 2023

**As a District we stand firmly against any funding mechanism that diverts public dollars from public education. We petition the state legislature to do its duty under the Texas state Constitution Article 7 section 1 “ A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.”**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Educational Savings Accounts do NOT address the challenges public education is facing:

- Teacher Shortages

- Unfunded Mandates

- Increasing numbers of High Need Students

ESAs/ Vouchers are a poison pill that public education cannot swallow.

**We implore the Governor to include public school funding and an increase in the basic allotment to the call of the Special Session.**

### **FUNDING**

LISD supports an increase to the Basic Allotment and addressing the unfunded mandates placed on Texas public schools. Public schools are not able to mitigate the impact of inflation and are faced with cutting programs and support for teachers and students. Full access to adequate funding for all school districts is critical to providing adequate programs that meet student needs.

Over the last year, LISD allotted nearly \$93M in its budget for Special Education (\$80M), Safety and Security (\$2.6M), Transportation (\$3.5M) and Bilingual Education (\$6.7M). In reality, the district's total expenditures in those areas was over \$121M, a nearly \$29M difference, including nearly \$13M for Special Education and almost \$12M for transportation.

We implore the Legislature to invest in our public education system to ensure access to a high-quality education for the over 5.5 million students currently enrolled in Texas public schools. Investing in public education is not only the right thing to do, but it is also good for the Texas economy. A well-educated workforce is essential for attracting businesses and creating jobs. Public schools are the foundation of our communities, and they play a critical role in preparing our children for the future. It is the Legislature's duty to support public education and to work to ensure that every child in Texas has access to a high-quality public education, by increasing the Basic Allotment.

As a Board we stand ready to support those who support public education.