



Allen ISD cultivates innovation in education that empowers every learner to realize his or her full potential. At Allen ISD, we:

- Believe every child deserves the highest quality education.
- Hold ourselves accountable to every child who walks through our door.
- Believe the development of citizenship in all students is essential to a complete education.
- Are responsible for building upon the sense of community we have inherited.
- Believe the development of leadership is critical to our success.

Allen ISD recognizes and appreciates the importance of efforts of Texas elected officials to support and enhance Texas public schools for the betterment of all children and citizens. On behalf of the approximately 21,000 Allen ISD students and 2,700 Allen ISD staff, the Allen ISD Board of Trustees strongly supports the following initiatives:

1. **SAFETY:** Allen ISD supports efforts to work with public school districts to identify, fund and implement increased safety measures, including increased support for counseling services, mental health programs, and safety measures. Including such measures as providing districts the ability to take credit for security costs out of recapture.
2. **FINANCE:** Allen ISD supports efforts to allow Allen ISD residents control over Allen ISD tax dollars, including efforts to ensure Allen ISD tax dollars stay within Allen ISD. Allen ISD forecasts that the current funding formula will result in over \$20,000,000 dollars being taken from Allen ISD residents to be used by the Texas Legislature. Allen ISD supports efforts to provide Allen ISD residents with full local control of their taxation rates, including Maintenance & Operations taxation. Allen ISD supports any efforts to offset recapture, such as providing districts the ability to take credit for security costs out of recapture. Allen ISD further supports efforts to modernize the school finance system and provide resources so that students will not be harmed by the continued decline of per-student funding in Texas over the past 12 years.
3. **EMPLOYEES:** Teachers are the number one school-based factor for student success. Accordingly, in efforts to support our educators and employees, Allen ISD supports:
  - a. Continuation of the current defined benefit program for Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS), as this is an invaluable recruiting and retention tool for maintaining quality educators in our classrooms.
  - b. Increased state funding to offset the rising health care costs associated with TRS-ActiveCare and TRS-Care. Alternatively, Allen ISD supports allowing TRS eligible participants to obtain health insurance through the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS). Additionally, Allen ISD supports efforts to allow districts to attempt to minimize health insurance costs for employees, including the creation of a health insurance pilot program to allow a select group of school districts the ability to leave TRS for a finite period to research the possibility of obtaining more affordable health insurance options.



Allen ISD also supports:

- Local control and flexibility, as school districts, must be able to respond to the differing needs of students, educators, parents, and communities.
- An adequate and equitable funding formula to ensure a high-quality education for all students. The funding formula should be dynamic and revised every two years to take into account population growth, inflation, and student educational achievement needs, as well as all state and federal mandates, by utilizing state, local and federal funds.
- Funding weights for special allotments that accurately reflect costs to deliver programs such as special education, career, and technical education, bilingual/ESL, gifted and talented, and compensatory education.
- Lawmakers using funds collected from school district property taxes solely for public education and not for franchise tax relief.
- Complete funding for full-day early childhood programs serving students from at-risk populations.
- Transparency by requiring itemization of the utilization of property taxes collected in the name of public education.
- Funding public education through sources beyond the local property tax (example: gas taxes, alcohol taxes, and other alternative revenue sources)
- Increased funding for the Technology and Instruction Materials Allotment (TIMA) to ensure districts can provide adequate technology and instructional materials.
- The opposition to the further expansion of existing charter systems, unless they are subject to the same accountability and transparency rules.
- The opposition of any use of vouchers and tax credits, taxpayer savings, grants, tuition reimbursements, or any other means to divert public tax dollars to private entities.
- The opposition of efforts to remove local control from Allen ISD residents by requiring super-majority votes to pass new school bonds and placing restrictions on school elections by requiring Boards to use only the uniform election date.