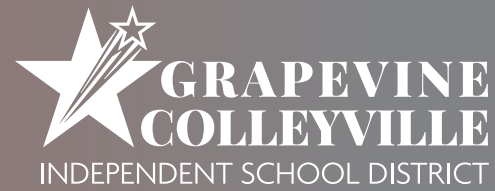




GCISD Legislative Priorities for the 87th Legislative Session



PURPOSE • INNOVATION • COMMUNITY

School Finance

- Support the reduction or elimination of the burden of Robin Hood/recapture on local communities and taxpayers.
- Support efforts to secure the current funding system and make appropriate budget decisions to assure long-term sustainability to HB3.
- Support prioritizing maintenance of the basic allotment, instructional allotments and tax compression rates over implementation of new programmatic spending until such resources are available.
- Advocate for truth-in-taxation regarding the relationship between rising property values and the corresponding decline in state funding.
- Oppose any mandated use of school district fund balances to offset or supplant state or local funding.

Disaster Response

- Support hold harmless provisions for funding losses due to COVID-19.
- Dedicate federal disaster-relief funds to public schools without supplanting state public education spending.

Assessments & Accountability

- Oppose the current A-F ratings that rely solely on STAAR scores and fail to recognize the strengths and uniqueness of each student, school and district.
- Support combining locally-developed measures with state measures in an accountability system that more accurately demonstrates the effectiveness of a school or district.

School Safety and Security

- Support fully funding the capital and operating expenses for school safety measures including equipment, infrastructure, personnel and counseling support to protect students and staff.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- Provide more affordable health insurance options for school district employees that align with benefits available to other state employees in the Texas ERS.
- Support legislation to ensure the continuation of defined retirement benefits for teachers and staff through TRS.
- Advocate for solutions to address teacher recruitment and retention, including improved salaries, benefits and professional growth opportunities through higher education and professional development.

Taxpayer Advocacy

- Support the ability to advocate for local taxpayers for example by belonging to organizations and having representative voices in the legislative process.
- Oppose any legislation which would carve out or allow only special interest groups, non-profit and quasi non-profit organizations or charter schools preferential access to lawmakers and the law-making process.

Charters & Vouchers

- Oppose the diversion of public funds to private entities through voucher or voucher-like schemes (e.g. education savings accounts, tuition tax credits, etc.) without the same accountability and transparency for public tax dollars as public schools.
- Support limiting the expansion of charter schools so that all available state funds for public education are used to sustain the promises made in HB3.
- Oppose charter expansion into areas served by high-performing schools.