



BURNET CISD

Priorities for the 86th Legislative Session



Unfunded Mandates

Often, the data gathering process for the cost of legislative mandates does not reflect the administrative cost for compliance and monitoring, and the true cost of implementing legislative changes.

- Burnet CISD believes any mandate of local school districts through legislation, must be accompanied with adequate funding to fulfill the mandate for the life of the mandate.



Assessment/Accountability

Ask any teacher the biggest challenge they face, and time to plan and teach is always at the top of that list. The number of testable standards have increased while going through a process of streamlining the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Within the 22 tested subjects, the number of standards has grown from 924 to 995 standards. The more standards that are mandated for teachers to teach at each grade level or content area, means less time for teachers to teach those standards and for students to learn those standards before the high stakes assessment takes place.

- With the state's accountability system relying heavily on one exam, it is critical that students have sufficient time to master "essential" standards of the TEKS. Burnet CISD believes that the number of standards expected to be taught and learned should be reduced and students should only be assessed on the "essential" standards or "readiness" standards.





Safety and Security

Burnet CISD has invested heavily in school safety and security measures that include a school resource officer assigned at all BCISD campuses, security cameras, secure entry ways, training, anonymous reporting application for students, card access doors, and counselors and behavior support staff.

- At a time in which schools are facing an increasing demand for safety and mental health support, Burnet CISD believes every school district needs access to additional state funding to help support their local needs for school safety and mental health. This funding should be flexible and allow local leaders to address their own specific needs and not create future unfunded mandates. Burnet CISD should not be denied funding because of its early investment in safety and security measures the past 5 years.



Funding

While no one funding system will help all districts, we stand together in asking our legislators to strongly consider the Texas Supreme Court's opinion that our school funding system is "...imperfect, with immense room for improvement." Of the major recommendations of The Texas Commission on Public School Report, Burnet CISD strongly advocates for the following actions:

- Increase the basic allotment
- Base transportation funding on mileage (Burnet CISD covers 700 square miles)
- Dedicated funding for full-day Pre-K
- Provide Early Learning Allotments – Bilingual
- Update existing allotments and weights to include dyslexia
- Increase the yield for the "copper" pennies; pennies above a \$1.06
- Reduce growth of recapture

