



## **MISD LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

### **87<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

*Adopted January 19, 2021*

#### **SCHOOL FINANCE**

##### **Montgomery ISD Supports:**

- Maintaining current funding levels set in House Bill 3 (86R)
- Prioritizing the long-term stability of the Foundation School Program (FSP) funding formulas by:
  - Adjusting the Basic Allotment each biennium to reflect increased inflationary costs
  - Identifying new state revenue sources designed to allocate funds to school districts and offset the burden on local property taxpayers to fund school districts
  - Lowering the burden on local property taxpayers to fund schools to no more than 50% by replacing those dollars with General Revenue from the state
  - Gaining a research-based understanding of the funding necessary for an equitable and adequate public education system by conducting a state-sponsored study on the costs of educating children in Texas
- Additional funding designed to allow school districts to reward their most effective educators with locally determined pay increases
- Amending Reading Academy requirements to add flexibility in how a school district organizes the responsibilities of a cohort leader and extending the deadline for completion of reading academies past the 2022-23 school year. For districts using the comprehensive model, allowing for fewer participants under a cohort leader to allow flexibility and time to continue other assigned duties
- Protecting the fund balances of school districts practicing good governance through fiscal responsibility

#### **ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

##### **Montgomery ISD Supports:**

- The Texas Education Agency's decision to waive the A-F accountability rating system for the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, in order to evaluate and set a baseline of student progress amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, MISD believes it is important to administer STAAR in spring 2021 with flexibility in how districts serve students engaged in virtual instruction

- Continuing to focus on how state accountability is measured to ensure that instructional practice is aligned, but not driven by state assessments
- Permanently extending the ability for districts to utilize Individual Graduation Committees

## **COVID-19**

### **Montgomery ISD Supports:**

- Crediting pandemic-related costs against a district's excess revenue (recapture) obligation to the state
- Assisting school districts with resources and the flexibility to address staff shortages, attendance variations, health, safety and mental health issues, and truancy issues arising from COVID-19
- Funding for the long-term stability of Operation Connectivity and bridging the digital divide in rural communities

## **LOCAL CONTROL**

### **Montgomery ISD Supports:**

- Maintaining a school district's ability to start the school year before the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in August under the District of Innovation designation
- Providing a school district board of education with greater flexibility to make local decisions around the health and welfare of students and staff
- Greater flexibility and local control for school districts to transition to virtual learning when in response to weather-related or public health emergency

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

### **Montgomery ISD Supports:**

- Additional funding to support an appropriate number of police officers and mental health professionals on campuses
- Targeted state funding for capital improvements and safety enhancements to better secure facilities, and flexibility around local decision-making in how such funds are allocated