



## **Montgomery ISD Legislative Platform 88th Texas Legislature**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**The Montgomery ISD Board of Trustees is committed to engaging and working with our state legislative delegation to advance policies that would enhance the district's capacity and ability to provide educators with the necessary resources to carry out the Vision to be the Premier School District in Texas.**

**Montgomery ISD is thankful for the opportunity to work with our state legislative delegation to address areas in the state's Foundation School Program that, for several years, have negatively impacted the district's revenues per student. The Board of Trustees stands willing and ready to serve as a partner and resource to state lawmakers when considering legislation that would impact public education in Texas.**

### **PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES DURING THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE**



#### **School Finance**

**Montgomery ISD proposes a legislative solution designed to financially support districts that kept conservative M&O tax rates before the fifty-cent compression enacted in 2006.**

**In 2015, Texas lawmakers adopted legislation (HB 7, initially filed as SB 945) that provided some relief to districts that were "conservative" with a less than \$1.50 M&O tax rate, prior to the .50-cent statewide M&O rate compression in 2006. The provisions of the bill applied to 472 school districts, including Montgomery ISD. However, the approximately \$200M associated with this legislation was eliminated through the passage of HB 3 in 2019.**

**Montgomery ISD proposes reinstating the "Adjusted Basic Allotment" provision adopted through HB 7 in 2015 and the renewal of the Formula Transition Grant to ensure no district experiences a loss of funding due to its expiration.**

**The Montgomery Independent School District also supports the following:**

- Legislation creating a temporary allotment for the 120 districts that received comparatively less federal ESSER relief funds. The funds would allow these districts to compete with teacher and staff sign-on bonuses, stipends and similar one-time uses.**
- A legislative directive that the Texas Education Agency study the 472 school districts that were below the \$1.50 Maintenance & Operations tax rate in 2006 for lost funding in most of the last 16 years, and those who owe recapture be provided the ability to use this as a credit into the future until all credit is exhausted.**
- Legislation that would allow for the bottom quartile ESSER-funded ISDs to receive a “make-whole” provision with the allocation of one-time funding to make up for the last four years of lost fractional funding.**
- That provisions related to the “Fast Growth District” funding are preserved to ensure that only those school districts that experience “true” growth in enrollment receive support from this additional funding through this allotment, as opposed to districts that experienced significant enrollment loss due to COVID and are seeing some of those students return.**
- The expansion of Career and Technical Education weights at middle school to ensure full/adequate levels of funding in classroom settings.**
- An increase to the state’s Basic Allotment to alleviate the burden of recapture on Chapter 48 districts, keep up with inflation and raises per-student funding to the national average.**
- Using district enrollment, rather than attendance, as the mechanism for funding.**



### **School Safety and Security**

- Montgomery ISD proposes an increase to the School Safety Allotment within the Foundation School Program, with new and sustainable funding, and providing districts with flexibility in how these additional revenues may be allocated to enhance school safety and security.**

- **Montgomery ISD encourages the state legislature to identify appropriate ongoing, sustainable funding for identifying and serving students with mental health needs through counseling services and campus-based mental and behavioral health services for students**
- **Montgomery ISD supports responsible modifications to SB 393, which limits a school district police's departments scope in issuing Class C Citations for offenses that occur on a school campus.**
- **Montgomery ISD encourages a thorough review of all school safety and security-related reporting requirements to ensure consistency and the elimination of reporting of duplicative data and information.**



### **Local Control**

- **In anticipation of a Parent's Bill of Rights legislative proposal, Montgomery ISD supports allowing school districts to have an attendance code that would not negatively impact Average Daily Attendance (ADA) when parents exercise their right to have their children not in school for designated educational purposes.**
- **Montgomery ISD supports modifications to HB 4545, which include permanent funding for all associated requirements for accelerated instruction and local flexibility in meeting the needs of students.**
- **Montgomery ISD supports preserving the ability for school districts to hold bond elections in May and November.**
- **Montgomery ISD supports transparency in elections and taxation; however, the district opposes any measure that adds required bond ballot language that is potentially confusing to taxpayers.**

