



Legislative Priorities 2010-2011

The Board of Trustees for the Clear Creek Independent School District believes schools are the heartbeat of our community, a safe place for teachers and students to come together and learn, and foster future leaders. It is with those beliefs, we are advocating for legislation that will ensure a strong and financially stable public education system for the 21st Century. The following 2010-2011 legislative priorities are designed to educate our lawmakers and community on reform required to better serve our children.

Finance

- ★ Pass legislation to allow school districts to keep local tax dollars. The current funding system prohibits school districts from holding on to the revenue generated from local property value growth after 2006 and diverts those local revenues directly to the State.
- ★ Restore the authority of the school boards to establish the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate above \$1.04 in annual increments of two or three pennies per \$100 valuations, without seeking a Tax Rate Election. School boards are the only elected entities that must seek voter approval to increase tax rates yet the year-to-year student funding remains relatively unchanged
- ★ Oppose unfunded mandates and provide relief to local school districts from existing unfunded mandates.

Education Reform

- ★ Support moving state assessments to a biennium schedule and use the savings to improve student achievement versus simply assessing it. Texas students spend 30 out of 180 school days taking some form of state assessment, and this is only expected to increase under House Bill 3 which was passed in 2009.
- ★ Allow for flexibility in the student to teacher ratio in order for local school districts to set classroom staffing based on the needs of the students versus a mandated and unfunded 22:1 student to teacher ratio.

Government

- ★ Support local control and the freedom for school districts to adopt local solutions for local issues