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Legislative Priorities 2008-2009

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 2008-2009 legislative priorities are designed to educate our lawmakers and community on reform required to better serve our children.

Finance

- ★ Support per student funding formulas that are both adequate and flexible enough to meet the increasing costs of energy, technology, transportation, insurance, and most important, putting quality teachers in the classroom.
- ★ Support a funding system that allows local school districts and their communities to retain, for maintenance and operations, at least some of the local tax dollars generated from increases in their local property base.
- ★ Support an update of funding formulas for items such as the cost of school bus transportation which has not been adjusted since 1985.
- ★ Support full funding of programs required to improve college readiness entry, online coursework, and pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk students.

Education Reform

- ★ Support incentives- both financial and regulatory for innovative and meritorious programs that enhance academic achievement and prosperity and save tax dollars.
- ★ Support financial incentives for career and technical programs necessary for the support of our workforce and business.
- ★ Support an accurate accountability system which measures student progress over the course of the school year instead of a one-day standardized test.
- ★ Oppose unfunded legislation mandates.

Government

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

Personnel

- ★ Support programs for the recruitment and retention of quality teachers.
- ★ Support affordable and necessary health care for school district personnel.
- ★ Support increased funding for qualified educators.

Facilities

- ★ Modify the requirements for the “New Instructional Facilities Allotment” (IFA) in order for fast school districts such as Clear Creek ISD to qualify.
- ★ Increase the IFA so that the funding level keeps pace with escalating start-up costs of schools.