



# STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2009 - 81st Legislature**

### I. Financial

- A. To seek and support legislation reducing or eliminating portions of the required Chapter 41 (Robin Hood) payments.
- B. To seek and support legislation that repeals Texas Education Code Section 42.103(e) and allows all mid-size school districts to benefit from the mid-size adjustment in the funding formula immediately.
- C. To seek and support legislation that allows property value growth to remain in the funding formula without reducing state aid or increasing recapture payments for all districts.
- D. To seek and support legislation that adjusts the funding formula's basic allotment so that state and/or local funding is able to generate revenues that exceed the hold harmless levels as required by House Bill 1 and be flexible enough to be adjusted for inflationary increases without legislation.
- E. To seek and support legislation that updates the basic transportation allotment to current market demands and includes all Chapter 41 school districts.

### II. Student Achievement

- A. To seek and support legislation that allows State and Federal accountability ratings to be consistent with each other and eliminate all conflicts.
- B. To seek and support adjustments to the state accountability system that allow for:
  - Challenging within content-specific assessments
  - Easily understood by educational community and general public
  - Rewarding schools and districts for student and campus improvement from year to year (growth model)
  - Preventing campuses or districts from being considered low-performing based on a few students
  - Not being identified in accountability ratings based on the performance of its weakest division
  - Basing assessment on content area covered in current year instruction (TEKS)

*II. Student Achievement (continued)*

- Providing all students who did not meet the minimum standards on their first administration an opportunity to participate in a second assessment administration of any TAKS assessment. This is consistent with what students in grades 3, 5 and 8 (Student Success Initiative) are allowed to do. **A campus or district's accountability ratings would be determined after including each student's second assessment scores.**
- C. Modify the Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code in order to provide additional instructional flexibility related to curriculum and graduation requirements; and to provide supportive funding sources related to the development of a skilled workforce including modifications to school finance rules allowing a portion of the funds recaptured by the State from school districts designated as Chapter 41 school districts for these purposes.