

Policy Priorities for the 89th Legislative Session

***THE EdTrust HAS A BOLD VISION:** a future where all students have the freedom to pursue their dreams and learn from effective educators in safe, nurturing classrooms. We envision well-resourced schools accountable to the communities they serve, where parents and educators work together to help students reach their full potential through clear college and career pathways that lead to economic opportunity. We pursue this vision by working with trusted partners across Texas to speak up for and with students, especially those whose needs and potential are often overlooked. We evaluate every policy, every practice, and every dollar spent through a single lens: what is right for students.*

Invest in Proven Solutions to Improve Student Outcomes

- **Expand the Early Education Allotment** to include Pre-K students and provide schools with more resources to build strong academic foundations prior to 3rd grade.
- **Increase the Compensatory Education Allotment and remove barriers for schools to participate in the Additional Days School Year (ADSY) program** to provide high-impact tutoring and more time to accelerate student learning and close widening gaps.
- **Expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment** to include additional educators, increase compensation levels, and support strategic staffing models to retain our best teachers and incentivize them to teach where students need them most.

Expand and Incentivize High-Quality Teacher Preparation

- **Establish a teacher residency allotment** to increase access to this hands-on certification pathway with proven impact on student outcomes and early career retention.
- **Support seamless teacher apprenticeship pathways** by integrating Grow Your Own programs, expanding the Mentor Program Allotment, and defining credentials that create clear progression points into the profession.

- **Adjust salary schedules** to clearly signal to candidates the value of rigorous preparation and early career persistence, while ensuring all teachers receive additional compensation.
- **Waive teacher exam and certification fees** to help reduce financial barriers to candidates seeking to complete their preparation.

Strengthen Early Foundations in Reading and Math

- **Require regular screening, identification, and progress monitoring for K-3rd graders** and the delivery of targeted, evidence-based intervention to struggling students.
- **Increase access to high-quality instructional materials, professional development, and instructional coaches**, with a focus on the state's lowest-performing schools and those with the highest concentration of under-prepared teachers.

Equip Parents and Families with Reliable Information

- **Require prompt notification of K-3 screening results** to help parents understand their child's reading and math progress, accompanied by effective, easy-to-use resources to support learning at home and at school.
- **Eliminate the option for Districts of Innovation to waive parental notification for uncertified teachers** and establish a searchable permit for parents to access certification status.
- **Maintain the state's system of summative annual assessments while continuing to pilot innovations** with the potential to produce more timely and actionable information.
- **Ensure A-F ratings are released** and that the state's accountability system remains focused on academic performance and rewards postsecondary outcomes.
- **Define chronic absenteeism** and require more frequent reporting of attendance-related data to drive engagement with disconnected students and families.

Improve Postsecondary Success for All Texans

- **Ensure continued investment and implementation of House Bill 8 (88R)**, the state's new outcomes-based funding formula for community colleges, to maximize postsecondary success for all students, especially high-need groups.
- **Increase investment in state financial aid programs** to improve affordability and completion for more Texas students from low-income backgrounds, especially those transferring from community colleges.
- **Support parenting students** by including them on the priority list for access to the Child Care Services program and ensuring their non-tuition costs are calculated accurately.
- **Improve access, attainment and reentry success for incarcerated students** by transferring administration and management of postsecondary programming to Windham School District. Ensure institutions receive assistance and clear criteria for program approval and that data systems are in place to monitor their performance.