

# DENTON ISD

## 1925 COMMITTEE

Meeting 4 – December 18, 2024



**Our Mission:** Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.

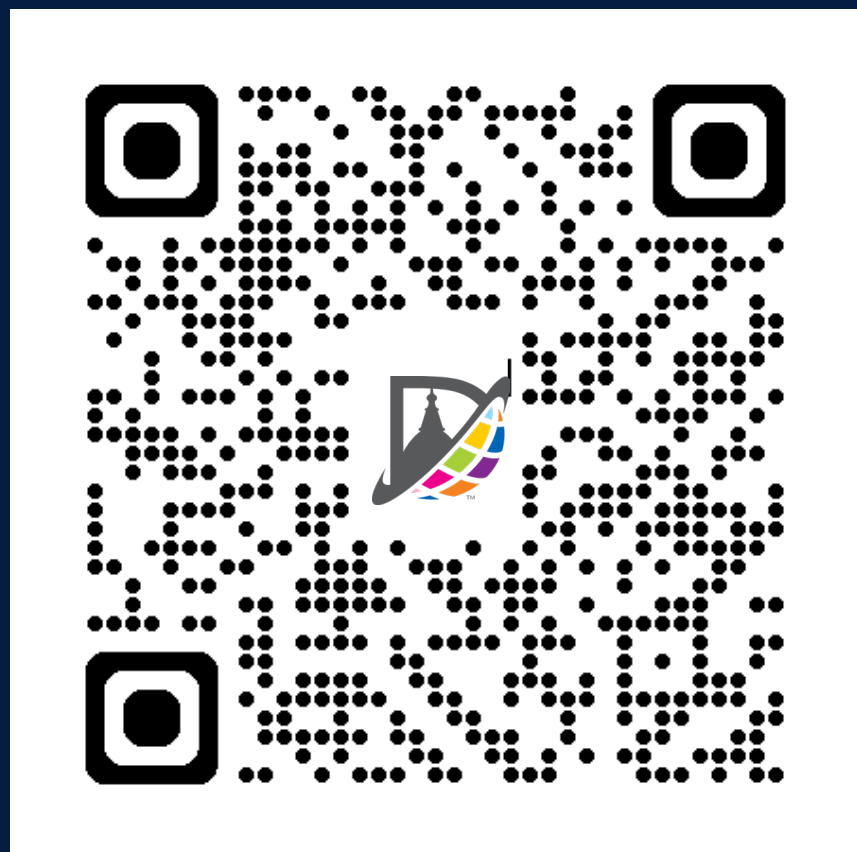


# TRANSPARENCY IN DENTON ISD

Denton ISD is focused on ensuring transparency throughout this educational budget planning process.

All meeting information can be accessed at:

[www.dentonisd.org/1925](http://www.dentonisd.org/1925)



A screenshot of the Denton ISD website page for the 1925 Advisory Committee. The page features a header image of a meeting with the text "1925 ADVISORY COMMITTEE" overlaid. Below the header, the page title "1925 ADVISORY COMMITTEE" is displayed. There are two navigation buttons: "1925 Home" and "Committee". The "Values" section states: "Growth &amp; Management... In pursuit of excellence, we value utilizing citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks." The "Committee Objective" section states: "This Committee is being created to understand Texas School Finance, evaluate staffing formulas and programming, analyze budgeted allocations of resources to current District programs, and offer feedback to the District's executive cabinet regarding how to prioritize reductions to budgeted expenditures and to maximize revenues in order to accomplish District budget goals. It is our desire to educate leaders within our community in order to seek input and facilitate informed decision making and advocacy in ways that align with the District's mission, vision and goals." At the bottom, a paragraph states: "The 1925 Committee is a valuable group of volunteers who will collaboratively provide input, advice and planning assistance on developing the 2025-2026 Denton ISD Operating Budget. This Committee receives feedback from community members and Denton ISD staff regarding our needs based on educational trends and population." On the right side of the page, there is a video player with a map of Texas and the text "How Public Schools in Texas are Funded" and "PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY TE SAFE AND EFFICI FACILITIES VALUED PROGRAM".

# AGENDA

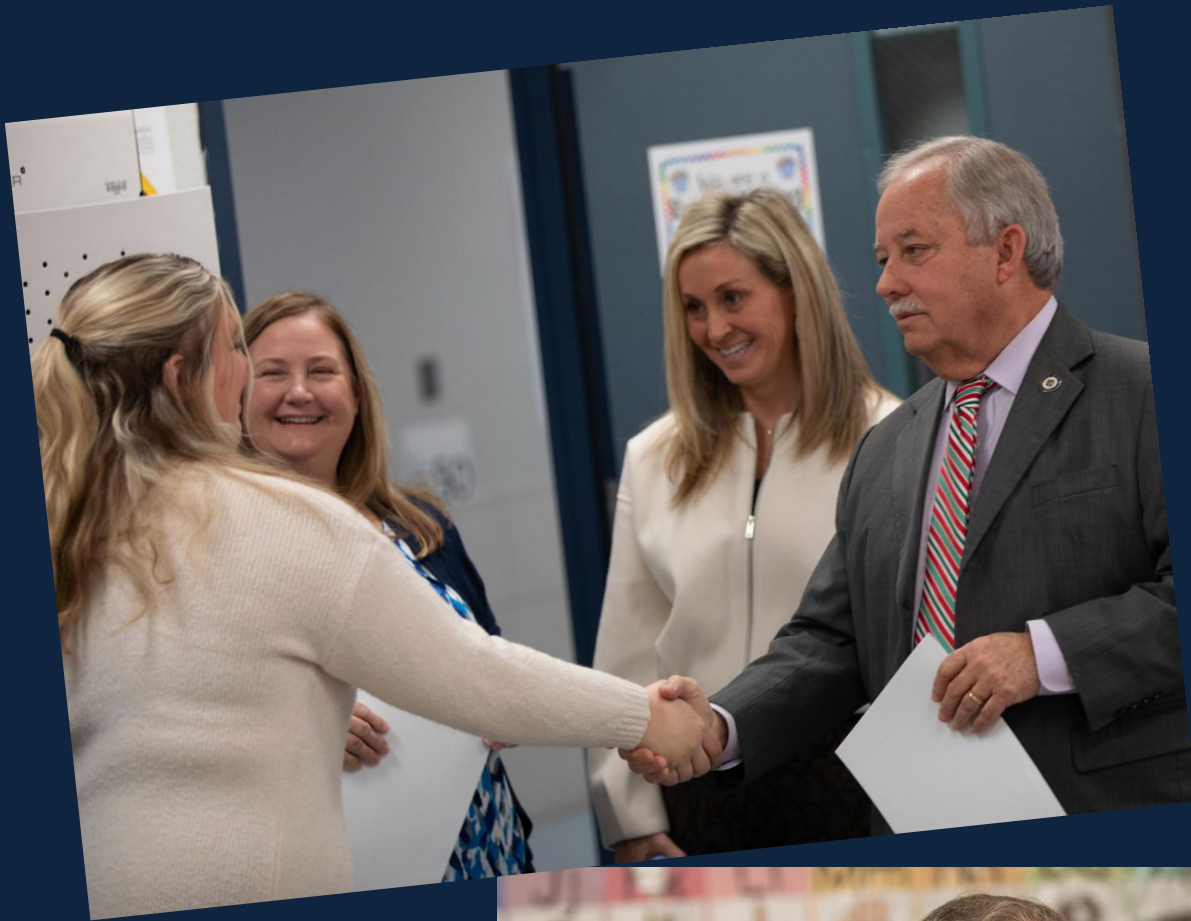
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Advocacy During the Legislative Session  
Reductions and Revenue Priorities

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# On-Campus Visits with Our Elected Officials





# Positive Change Through Advocacy

**Denton ISD '1925' Committee  
December 18, 2024**

**Brian Woods**

TASA Deputy Executive Director  
Advocacy



## Agenda

- Where We Stand
- Speculating About the 89th Session
- How Do We Make Things Better?
- Tips/suggestions for Advocacy
- Call to Action



# **Where We Stand Today**

# Where Do We Stand Today?

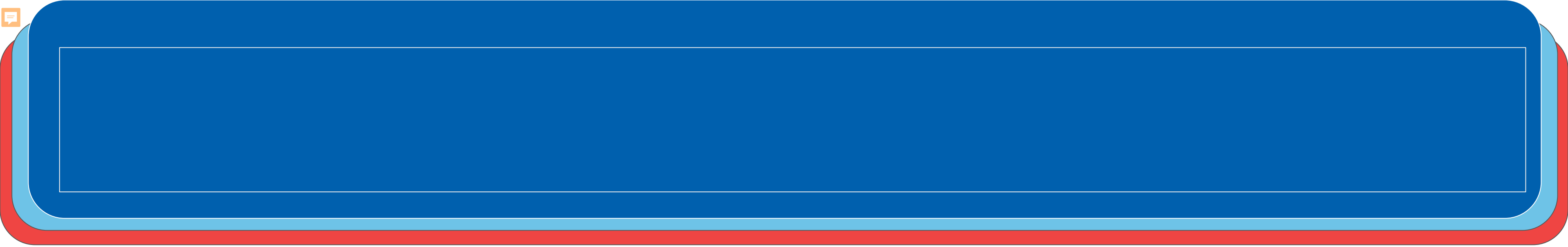
- Comptroller Hegar has indicated that the legislature will have another very large GR surplus going into the 89th session. Watch for this number to increase as we get closer...
- TX is one of only 10 states that funds schools based on attendance vs. enrollment
- The shortage of employees (not just teachers) has forced ISDs to keep up with their competition with regard to pay and benefits
- The bottom line is that many school are suffering financially



# School **Budget Deficits** in Texas Continue into School Year 2024-25



**80%**  
of **313** school  
districts in  
Texas surveyed  
face **challenges**  
with **deficit**  
**budgets** and  
**have insufficient**  
**resources**



**Speculating about the 89th...**

# Where Do We Go From Here?

- Vouchers will almost certainly be a part of any funding discussion in spite of language about keeping the two separate
- There will be MANY new members - especially in the House
- R's in the House continue to fight over their ideological future
- The basic allotment has not increased since 2019 and the Comptroller's estimate of total inflation is above 23%
- Many districts are operating off of fund balance - in spite of some criticism of building a healthy fund balance
- Political pressure does exist around teacher pay, SPED and safety funding

# Where Do We Go From Here?

## **Continuing Issues from the 88th?**

- Open enrollment for transfers
- Prohibit communities from implementing 4 day school weeks
- Making performance ratings by commissioner final
- Changes to the state testing system
- SBOE supermajority vote to veto charters
- Election integrity
- Power grid
- Border security
- Property tax reduction

# Where Do We Go From Here?

- **Possible legislation in the 89th on:**
  - Cell phones
  - “Taxpayer funding lobbying”/community censorship
  - SPED funding/SHARS
  - Chapter 37 issues
  - Chronic absenteeism
  - State assessment system
  - Childcare access and affordability

# Where Do We Go From Here?

- **Possible legislation in the 89th on:**
  - TEA investigations
  - Educator preparation/certification
  - Bonds/local debt
  - Cost of insurance

# Important Dates in the 89th

- November 11, 2024 - lawmakers can pre-file bills
- January 14, 2025 - 89th Legislature convenes
- March 14, 2025 - Last day of bill filing (60th day)
- June 2, 2025 - Sine Die
- Governor has 10 days to sign or veto bills if a bill passes 10 days prior to sine die and 20 days to sign or veto bills passed after sine die. If the Governor doesn't take any action, the bill becomes law.



**How Do We Make Things  
Better for Texas Public  
School Children?**



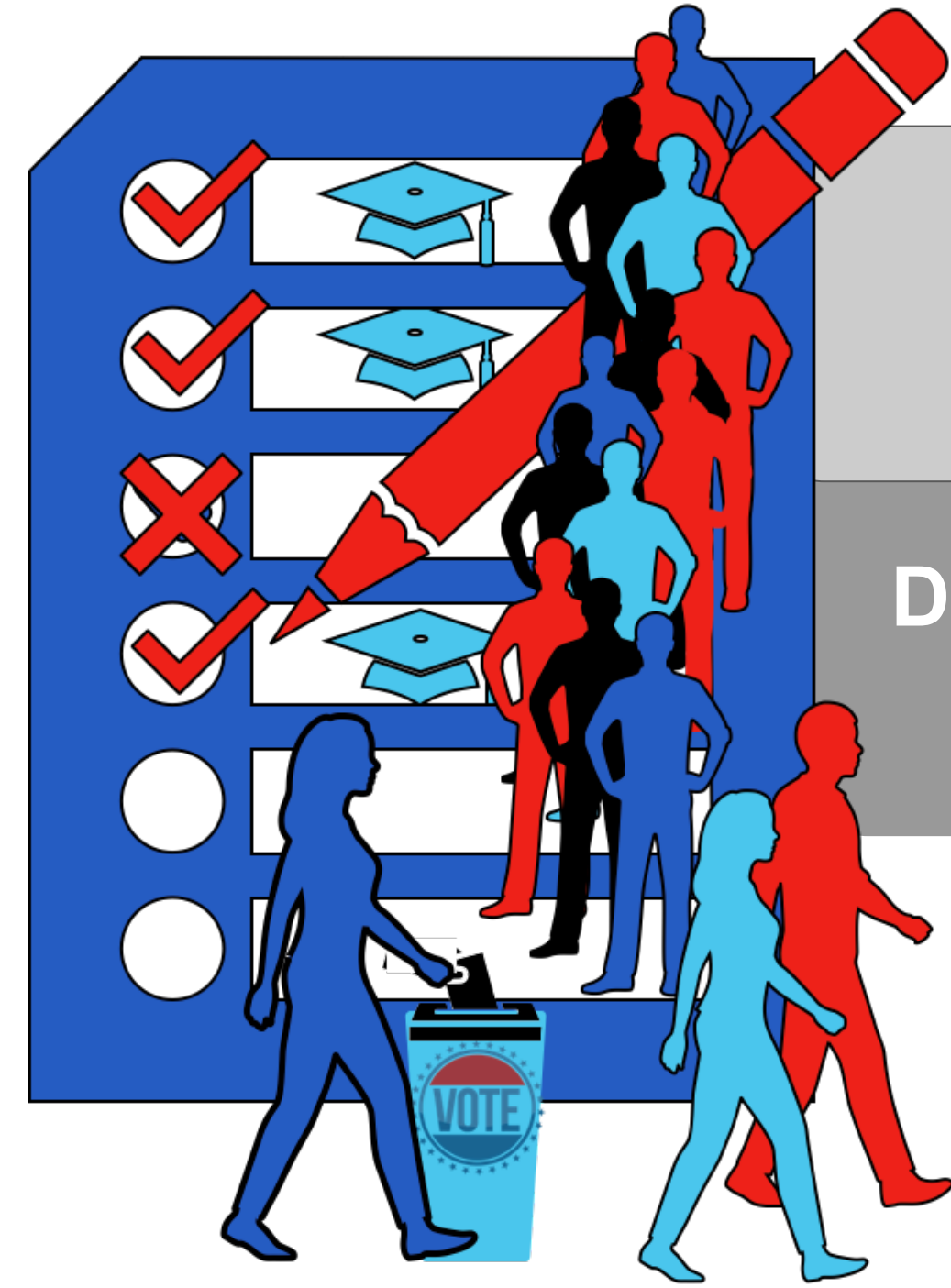
# What is Advocacy?

Encouraging  
Voting

Do those who care about your  
schools vote regularly?

Telling Your Story &  
Building Your Brand

Does your community know  
what's REALLY happening in  
your schools?



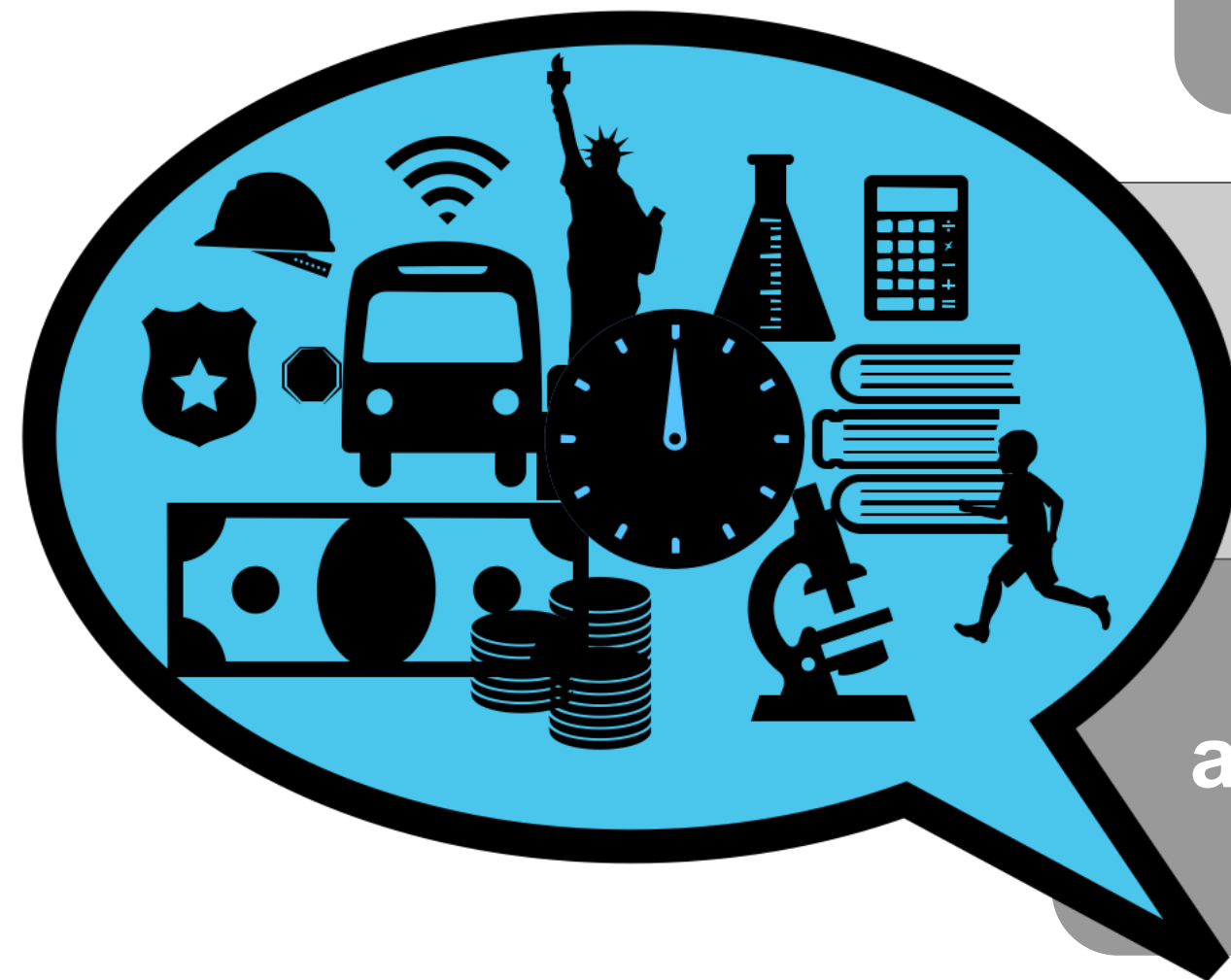
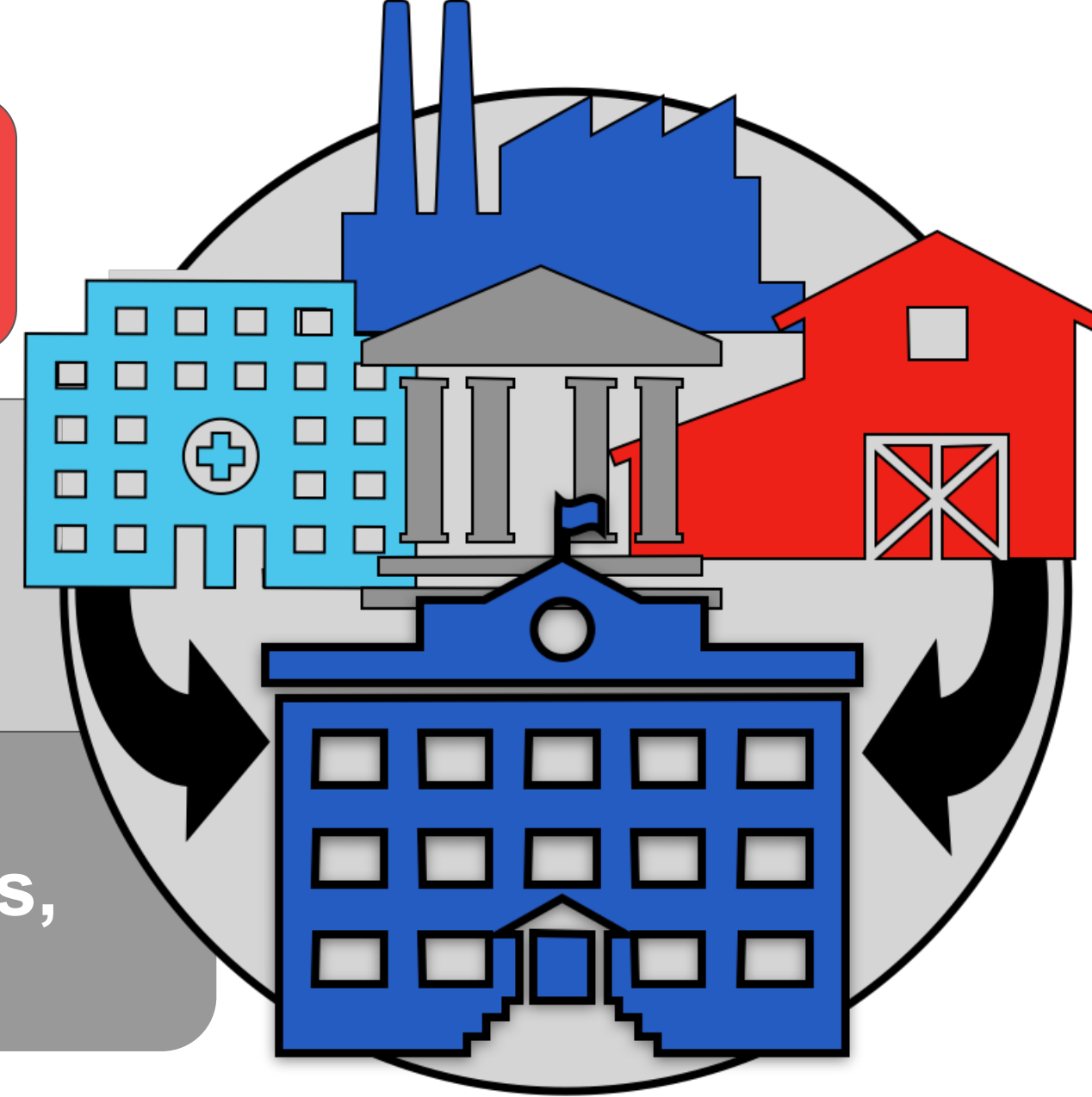
# What is Advocacy?

Meeting Needs  
Locally

How do you build local  
partnerships w/ counties, cities,  
and other organizations?

Meeting Needs through  
State Policy

How do you educate your representatives  
about your district and the effects of specific  
policies?



# And What is it NOT?

TASA telling you what your priorities are or should be.

You, your board, your staff, parents and community/business leaders decide that!

**Partisan or Necessarily Political**

Meeting community needs and quality public education for all are American ideals!



# Who Can Advocate?

Anyone who cares about your system (and gets some training), but it can't just be the superintendent and Board...

Legislators consistently say they are not hearing from "school people" ...



# **Tips/Suggestions for Policy Advocacy**

# Tips/Suggestions for Legislative Advocacy:

- Have a set of legislative priorities and give them out freely
- Build Relationships with Members and staffers:
  - Trade cell numbers
  - Meet during the interim
  - Invite them to school events
  - Support your members with your time (events, social media, voting, etc.)
- During Session:
  - Pay attention to legislative action alerts and act on them
  - Thank members when they vote to support your priorities (even when you don't get a win)

# Tips/Suggestions for Legislative Advocacy:

- When you go
  - Don't be confrontational, but rather firm and fact-based
  - Take subject matter experts with you
  - Take parents/students with you
  - Be civil
  - Kindly remind the elected that you are both locally elected
- Most important:
  - EDUCATE your community - the issues are complex

# Call to Action

- Build a record of voting
- Communicate with your elected officials (in order of increasing effectiveness)
  - Email
  - Letter
  - Phone call
  - Fact to face (including with staff)
- Work with staff (or other) experts to author op-eds
- Educate others about the strengths and challenges your school experiences



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# FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST



# DEFICIT AREAS IN DENTON ISD



**Pre-K Programing**

**\$2,490,955**



**Special Education**

**\$9,859,333\***



**Transportation**

**\$7,438,226**



**Safety and Security**

**\$4,440,228**

# APPROACHES TO SCHOOL FUNDING

**FLEXIBLE**

Basic Allotment

**TARGETED**

Early Education  
Reforms

Special  
Education

Teacher Pay

School Safety

# BASIC ALLOTMENT INCREASE – COST ESTIMATE

Assumes all other aspects of FSP remain current law

State Cost and Related Implications per Various Increases in FSP Basic Allotment assumed to take effect in FY26			
Basic Allotment	Increase from Current Law	Annual State Cost (in billions)	Biennial State Cost (in billions)
\$6,260	\$100	\$0.735	\$1.5
\$6,360	\$200	\$1.470	\$2.9
\$6,460	\$300	\$2.200	\$4.4
\$6,560	\$400	\$2.960	\$5.9
\$6,660	\$500	\$3.7	\$7.4
\$6,760	\$600	\$4.4	\$8.8
\$6,910	\$750	\$5.6	\$11.2
\$7,160	\$1,000	\$7.4	\$14.8
\$7,500	\$1,340	\$9.9	\$19.8

Empowering Lifelong Learners

**Our Mission:** Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.



# BASIC ALLOTMENT INCREASE – Special Education

Assumes all other aspects of FSP remain current law

State Cost and Related Implications per Various Increases in FSP Basic Allotment assumed to take effect in FY26			
Basic Allotment	Increase from Current Law	Average Annual Increase in Tier 1 Special Education Allotment for FY 26 & FY 27 (in millions)	% Increase in Tier 1 Special Education Allotment
\$6,260	\$100	\$103.1	1.6%
\$6,360	\$200	\$206.2	3.2%
\$6,460	\$300	\$309.3	4.9%
\$6,560	\$400	\$412.4	6.5%
\$6,660	\$500	\$515.5	8.1%
\$6,760	\$600	\$618.7	9.7%
\$6,910	\$750	\$773.3	12.2%
\$7,160	\$1,000	\$1,031.1	16.2%
\$7,500	\$1,340	\$1,381.7	21.8%

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# BASIC ALLOTMENT INCREASE – Safety & Security

Assumes all other aspects of FSP remain current law

**State Cost and Related Implications per Various Increases in FSP Basic Allotment assumed to take effect in FY26**

Basic Allotment	Increase from Current Law	Average Annual Increase in Tier 1 School Safety Allotment for FY 26 & FY 27 (in millions)	% Increase in Tier 1 School Safety Allotment
\$6,260	\$100	\$10	5.4%
\$6,360	\$200	\$20	10.9%
\$6,460	\$300	\$30	16.3%
\$6,560	\$400	\$40	21.8%
\$6,660	\$500	\$50	27.2%
\$6,760	\$600	\$60	32.6%
\$6,910	\$750	\$75	40.8%
\$7,160	\$1,000	\$100	54.4%
\$7,500	\$1,340	\$133.9	72.9%



# BASIC ALLOTMENT INCREASE – Teacher Pay

Assumes all other aspects of FSP remain current law

State Cost and Related Implications per Various Increases in FSP Basic Allotment assumed to take effect in FY26			
Basic Allotment	Increase from Current Law	Average FTE (Teachers, Counselors, Nurses & Librarians)	Average FTE All Non-Administrator Staff
\$6,260	\$100	\$410	\$74
\$6,360	\$200	\$822	\$148
\$6,460	\$300	\$1,242	\$223
\$6,560	\$400	\$1,666	\$299
\$6,660	\$500	\$2,081	\$374
\$6,760	\$600	\$2,495	\$448
\$6,910	\$750	\$3,112	\$559
\$7,160	\$1,000	\$4,129	\$742
\$7,500	\$1,340	\$5,505	\$989

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# Prioritizing Considerations

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# Considerations after 3 Meetings

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed Reduction</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Class Size Adjustments	\$7,912,924	PK-1, 22:1; 2-4 24:1; 5-12 27:1
Classroom Support Professionals	\$639,000	
Extra/Co Curricular Adjustments	\$200,000	
Non-Campus Payroll	\$2,591,802	19 Professional, 13 Paraprofessional
Non-Campus Operating Budget	\$1,260,400	3.6% Reduction
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,604,126</b>	<b>3.6% Total Reductions</b>



# 3 Lenses for Consideration

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1. Maintain our primary focus on teaching and learning.
2. Long term viability for Denton ISD.
3. Substantial impact to our overall budget.

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# Considerations

Description	Amount
Reduction of Technology Support	\$200,000+
Elimination of Extra/Co-Curricular Activities	\$250,000+
Increase Transportation to 2.5 Mile	\$586,626
Increase Transportation to 3.0 Mile	\$1,450,367
Eliminate 5 Hazardous Routes	\$136,374
MS All Contents Teach 7 of 8 periods	\$2,704,127
HS All Contents Teach 7 of 8 periods	\$4,762,969
2 Golden Pennies, TRE \$0.6169 + .06 + \$0.02	\$10,521,779
2 Golden Pennies + 1 Copper Penny, TRE \$0.6169 + .06 + \$0.03	\$16,072,059





Scan to join the  
**2025 Legislative Watch Team**

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**THANK YOU AND HAVE A  
WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!**

**Next Meeting:  
May 14, 2025**

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