

REGION 10 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Legislative Priorities



Midlothian Independent School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Communications Department

info@misd.gs

972.775.8296

AREA SCHOOL BOARDS UNITE BEHIND EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

December 19, 2016, Midlothian, TX - The Midlothian ISD School Board approved a resolution outlining their top legislative priorities entering the 2017 Texas Legislative Session. The passing of this measure is the latest in a collective effort by the superintendents and school boards of Region 10 to communicate the top areas of interest that stand to impact the 812,000 students they collectively serve.

The priorities include a call to repeal any A-F campus and district grading system, opposition to vouchers or Education Savings Grants, and an increase of funding for Texas' public schools. The approved resolution will be mailed to the Texas Governor's Office and local senators and representatives. Detailed information on the top three legislative priorities may be found at www.TexasStudentsMatter.com.

"Midlothian ISD is proud to stand in this effort to communicate the needs of its district and the students in Region 10," said Dr. Lane Ledbetter, superintendent of schools.

The superintendents from Region 10 have further unified in their efforts by planning a joint press conference on January 9, 2017, which is the day before the 2017 Texas Legislative Session opens. At 10:00 a.m. in the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland, 80 superintendents and their board members are invited to attend to further discuss these priorities. Members of the media are invited to attend.

For more information about Midlothian ISD, visit www.misd.gs, or contact the Communications Department at 972.775.8296 or info@misd.gs.

###



BOARD RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the Midlothian Independent School District Board of Trustees commits support and priority to the collective efforts of the Region 10 area school districts and their work in pursuing legislative action for the sake of protecting school districts and students across the state of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Midlothian Independent School District trustees, in partnership with, and in service to, their state and local communities, are committed champions of teaching and learning for success of schools and all students; and

WHEREAS, the Midlothian Independent School District trustees, are vital voices of their communities, advocating for the needs and interests of children and youth as they prepare for their future; and

WHEREAS, the communities of Midlothian have shown confidence and faith in their school trustees to make informed decisions that will provide excellence and success in education for their students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of the Midlothian Independent School District joins in collective efforts with other area Region 10 School Boards to have our voices heard in support for the following list of legislative priorities as laid out by the Region 10 area school boards and districts:

- **A-F Accountability System**: We believe in strong accountability, but see no evidence that the A-F grading system will actually improve performance or help students. The system is designed to rank order schools within each domain to allow for comparison of schools/districts. The bulk of the rankings will be based solely on a once a year STAAR/EOC assessment that has been proven to be defective, not statistically significant or reliable, and detrimental to students and the teaching profession. The present standard setting process indicates that it will be impossible for all schools to earn an A.
- **Vouchers or Education Saving Grants**: We oppose a state voucher plan, tax credit, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or any program that diverts public tax dollars to private entities, homeschool students, or parents with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.
- **Funding**: We believe that the basic allotment should be raised creating additional funding for all districts in Texas. The increased allotment would not require additional revenue from the state, rather revenues generated by increased property values would be returned to local school districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Midlothian Independent School Board of Trustees respectfully urges that the members of the 85th Texas Legislature demonstrate that an investment in Texas Public School Children, in partnership with the Midlothian Independent School District and the Region 10 area Districts, is of the highest priority in order to guarantee the best possible future for our students.