

Overton Independent School District

PO Box 130 Overton, Texas 75684

Legislative Priorities Resolution 2016

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the community of Overton has 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 Overton Independent School District joins in collective efforts with other Region VII School Boards to have our voices heard in support for the following list of legislative priorities as laid out by the Region VII area school boards and districts:

- **A-F Accountability System:** We believe that the A-F accountability system does not provide a meaningful or accurate assessment of a student, campus or district performance. We believe that the social/economic environment of campuses/districts will have unintended consequences on the ratings. The bulk of the rankings will be based 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.
- **Vouchers or Education Savings Grants:** We oppose a state voucher plan, tax credit, taxpayer savings grant, tuition reimbursement, or any other 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 Overton Independent School Board of Trustees respectfully impores that the members of the 85th Texas Legislature exemplify that an investment in Texas Public School Children, in partnership with the Overton Independent School District and the districts in Region VII, is of high priority and a future guarantee for our students.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 12th day of December, 2016

E. Mc

School Board President

Mahn Rogow

School Board Vice President

Pam Raney

School Board Secretary

Sally Moore

School Board Trustee

Arnoldman

School Board Trustee

Paul Pelt

School Board Trustee

Mary J. Dike

School Board Trustee

S. D. Buse

Superintendent

Overton Independent School District

< PO Box 130 >

Overton, Texas 75684

Whereas: Since the mid-1970's, the State of Texas has recognized the diseconomy of scale of small/rural schools by providing a formula that adjusts for the high cost of small classes in schools with less than 1600 pupils in attendance. However, when legislation was put forward to provide help for these small schools, many in the legislature at that time felt that some of these small schools were small by choice and should, therefore; be consolidated. The idea of encouraging consolidation obtained a majority of thought and the decision was made that small school districts with less than 300 mi.² within their boundary should be encouraged to consolidate by funding them by a factor of 0.15 within the formula less than those districts above 300 mi.², and

Whereas: this factor would cause a funding discrepancy of 3% to 35% between school districts that would range in size from 200 to 1400 students within districts with less than 1600 students in attendance, and

Whereas: there are many school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance and less than 300 mi.² within their boundaries whose campuses are located within a community that is a county seat and, therefore; do not have the ability to attach themselves to another school district unwilling to consolidate or direct another school district within their county to consolidate with them, and

Whereas: students within a school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance and less than 300 mi.² within their boundaries and adjacent to a similar school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance above 300 mi.² within their boundaries and with the same tax rate will not be able to receive the same services as the students in this adjacent districts, and

Whereas: taxpayers within school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance and less than 300 mi.² within their boundaries in order to provide their students with the same services as neighboring school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance and above 300 mi.² within their boundaries


must have a higher tax rate than their neighboring school district by up to 35%,
and

Whereas: the State of Texas has now created Public Charter Schools throughout the state, most of which have less than 1600 pupils in attendance and suffer no penalty for their size, and

Whereas: since this penalty against small/rural school districts has been in effect for over 40 years and has contributed to very few consolidations, in fact most of the consolidations have been due to the lack of students rather than revenue, it is time for the State of Texas to stop penalizing students and taxpayers for where they reside, and

Therefore, be it resolved that: the Trustees of Overton Independent School District do hereby direct their Legislative representatives: Senator Hughes and Representative Clardy to author, co-author, and/or support to final passage legislation that will correct this more than 40 year old penalty against small/rural school districts with less than 1600 students in attendance and less than 300 mi.² within their boundaries.

Signed this 12th Day of December, 2016


President 

Vice President 

Secretary 

Member 

Member 

Member 

Member 