



# PINE TREE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Pine Tree ISD Legislative Priorities for the 85th Texas Legislative Session

On Monday, November 7, 2016, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees met to discuss the needs of the students in our District and develop an advocacy agenda in order to continue to place the needs of our students first.

### PINE TREE ISD SUPPORTS

- **Equitable and adequate funding for public schools in Texas**
  - A state finance system that reflects the increase in the cost of education and the cost of living
  - Increased weighted funding for students who need more services (at-risk, Bilingual, SPED)
  - The restoration of the funding lost to Districts as a result of Senate Bill 1. Pine Tree ISD lost approximately \$480,000. There was no “hold harmless.”
  - Increased funding for employee health insurance rather than passing the costs on to the employee and the local district.
  - Additional funding to support the increasing needs of students living in poverty such as parent advocates, mentors, and liaisons
- **Local Control**
  - Public schools governed by locally elected school Board members
  - The ability to set the school calendar including the school start date
  - Flexibility in the 22:1 class size for K - 4
  - Flexibility in the accountability testing in grades 3 - 8
  - Greater flexibility in setting the local tax rate
- **Accountability**
  - A reduction in the number of tests required for students in Grades 3 - 8
  - The development of an accountability system that allows for a variety of measures to determine student growth and student proficiency
  - The development of local measures with the accountability system to allow for the use of portfolios and other student samples of work to show growth and proficiency

### PINE TREE ISD OPPOSES

- **Diversion of State Funding from Public School**
  - Vouchers, tax credits, tax payer savings accounts, tuition reimbursements or any other programs that divert public tax dollars to privately run schools or charter schools that are exempt from state and federal accountability requirements
- **Unfunded Mandates**
  - Any new unfunded mandates and infringements upon local control
- **Accountability**
  - The implementation of the A-F rating system (HB 2804) for state accountability tests based on the current system which is one test given on one date

### Contact your Representatives

Listed below is the contact information for the state lawmakers who represent Pine Tree ISD. Not sure who represents you? [Click here](#) to search for your representative by address.

The link below provides information regarding the 85th Legislative session and the daily legislative process.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

#### Texas State Senate District 1 - Senator Bryan Hughes

Capitol Office: CAP GE.7  
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0101  
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

#### State District Offices

#### Texas State House District 7 - Representative Jay Dean

Capitol Office: EXT E2.716  
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0750  
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

#### Texas State Board of Education District 9 - Dr. Keven Ellis

P.O. Box 151453  
Lufkin, TX 75915  
(512) 710-7915  
[ellisSBOE@gmail.com](mailto:ellisSBOE@gmail.com)

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