

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*How Lawmakers can Support Success for Texas Students*



**PROUD PAST.  
BOLD FUTURE.  
WE ARE EMS ISD**

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD is one of the fastest-growing school districts in the greater Fort Worth/Dallas area. We believe every student deserves a free, high-quality education that is barrier-free. Today's students are the future of our state and nation, and they deserve public schools that are supported and valued as an integral component of our state's future success.

## **1 Support legislation to facilitate effective and efficient operations for public education**

- End the use of rising property values to fund state responsibilities outside of education
- Increase weights for students with additional needs to more accurately reflect the true costs of providing education services
- Eliminate unfunded mandates
- Allow local control of tax rate and meaningful discretion of local tax dollars
- Establish parameters for the growth of charter schools that include reporting requirements to allow local community schools the ability to properly plan for enrollment fluctuations
- Support any mechanism that requires any entity receiving state aid for education to be held accountable for the use of that money

## **2 Support effective and equitable state accountability systems**

- Repeal the A-F reporting system
- Support a state academic accountability system that engages both state and local measures to more accurately assess the effectiveness of a school or district
- Ensure state assessments are appropriate in length, frequency, and content
- Develop a state financial accountability system that evaluates the financial strength of a school district based on the individual resources and needs of that district and not on statewide common measures

## **3 Address ongoing concerns with state educator benefits**

- As promised, provide financial stability for retired educators by adequately funding the TRS pension and insurance programs to provide long-term sustainability
- Free districts to opt-out of TRS Active Care for current employees and choose their own health insurance provider through a self-insured, market-driven process