Department of
COMMUNICATIONS
MIDWAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Midway ISD Legislative Priorities - DRAFT

90th Texas Legislature 2027 - Proposed for Board Consideration

Midway ISD belongs to the community it serves. These proposed priorities support strong public schools, responsible stewardship and decisions that reflect the enduring values of Midway families and taxpayers. They should guide state policy consistently as political leadership changes.

1. **Protect local control**
    a. Provide adequate, recurring operating funding through an increased basic allotment with an automatic annual adjustment for inflation. Direct a greater share of new investment through flexible formula funding so locally elected boards can address local needs.
    b. Preserve local authority to select instructional materials, design instructional approaches and offer academic programs that meet state standards and reflect student needs and community priorities.
    c. Reduce unnecessary state restrictions on financial and operational decisions while maintaining accountability for student achievement, responsible spending and transparency.

    Why this matters for Midway: HB 2 invested $8.5 billion statewide over the biennium but increased the basic allotment by only $55 per student in average daily attendance. Funding delivered in restricted categories limits the board's ability to respond to community priorities.

2. **Fully fund mandates and allow time for implementation**
    a. Close funding gaps for existing requirements, particularly special education, school safety and transportation, and provide sustainable funding for recurring obligations.
    b. Fund the full employer cost of state-required raises, including Teacher Retirement System contributions, payroll taxes and applicable benefits, without absorbing increases needed for other operations.
    c. Provide funding, final rules, training and materials before affected budget and hiring decisions. Align implementation of new mandates with school planning cycles and establish accountability expectations before the year they evaluate.

    Why this matters for Midway: TRA and support staff retention funds pay salary increases but cannot cover related employer costs. Those costs draw on other revenue, reducing the net increase available for student services. Major state changes also require preparation before classrooms and budgets can absorb them.

3. **Restore meaningful local innovation authority**
    a. Restore and preserve District of Innovation authority over hiring, eligible teacher certification exemptions, assignments and staffing models. Amend HB 2 to provide durable local certification flexibility, including multi-year options for documented shortage areas, with appropriate student safeguards and accountability for instructional quality.
    b. Fund certification programs and exam fees, support candidates completing certification, and expand practical routes for experienced professionals and retired educators to serve in hard-to-fill positions.
    c. Provide local discretion and sustainable resources for competitive compensation and retention across the workforce, including special education teachers, paraprofessionals and beginning teachers.

    Why this matters for Midway: Midway's current District of Innovation term extends through 2027. Recent restrictions on certification exemptions make durable local hiring authority especially relevant as the district plans its next innovation cycle.