



Texans have high expectations for student achievement and public school performance. With additional resources, we can give all 5.3 million Texas students a fair shot at success in school and life. There will be a lot of proposals to address school funding during the 86th Legislative Session. **Any new school finance plan should follow these basic principles:**

- ✔ **Education dollars should stay in education.**
Local property value increases will add \$3.7 billion to our school funding system over the next two years—those local dollars should increase education spending, not save the state money.
- ✔ **The state should fund pre-K first.**
Providing formula-funded, high-quality, full-day pre-K is the best investment Texas can make to ensure all students have a fair shot at success in school and in life.
- ✔ **Funding for education should not be tied to high-stakes testing.**
The purpose of the school finance system is to provide equitable and adequate funding. The purpose of the state's accountability system is to evaluate performance.
- ✔ **The state should increase its share of education funding to 50 percent.**
The state should invest additional dollars in the Foundation School Program. State appropriations must increase to at least match local tax collection increases.
- ✔ **There must be an equal balance between funding for property tax relief and new money for public education.**
For each dollar of property tax relief, at least an additional new state dollar must be invested in public education. Property tax relief should be equal and uniform to maintain Texas as an attractive business destination.