

## Talking Points: School Finance Reform & Property Tax Relief for Texans

### How the State Budget, the Taxpayer Transparency Act, and the Texas Plan Work Together

- *House Bill 1: Provides the funding. House Bill 2: Increases transparency. House Bill 3: Overhauls the school finance system and reduces property taxes.*
- House Bill 3 and House Bill 1 provide property tax **RELIEF**. House Bill 2 provides property tax **REFORM**. **All three bills work hand in hand and are critical to accomplishing these priorities for Texans.**
- House Bill 3 puts \$9 billion in additional funding toward public education, which gives districts the funding they need to invest in classrooms, students, and teachers
- Through House Bill 3 and House Bill 1, we're **lowering school district property taxes by an average of 5.5% statewide, or \$2.7 billion. Every Texan will see a permanent property tax rate reduction** and the bill provides the option to lower property taxes further in the future.
- House Bill 3 provides a uniform statewide property tax compression so that all Texans -- urban, suburban or rural -- benefit equitably.
- House Bill 3 also empowers voters and protects taxpayers by requiring voters to authorize tax rates above \$1.01 in an election. That's three cents lower than current law. Before going to voters for a tax increase, districts must also conduct an efficiency audit to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used responsibly.
- House Bill 2 implements critical transparency safeguards that allow taxpayers to engage in the property tax rate-setting process.
- House Bill 3 **reduces the "Robin Hood" burden by more than 38% or \$3.5 billion** over the next two years. This legislation reduces recapture by increasing the amount of money guaranteed for each student. House Bill 3 raises the Basic Allotment from \$5,140 to \$6,030.

### How the Texas Plan Addresses Teacher Pay

- House Bill 3 provides incentive-based increases to teacher pay, which rewards the teachers taking on the challenges of high needs and/or rural schools that struggle to attract and retain quality teachers.
- Teachers will be provided even more continuing education and training opportunities throughout their careers. House Bill 3 provides funding for professional development programs that train teachers in the latest instructional techniques.
- Instead of mandating an unsustainable pay schedule, local districts are provided with the money and discretion to determine teacher and school support staff compensation how they see fit.

### How the Texas Plan Supports Gifted and Talented

- School districts will continue to receive funding for gifted and talented programs, and TEA will continue to monitor those programs to ensure they are providing a rigorous and challenging education for gifted and talented students.

### How the Texas Plan Identifies Our Students' Needs

- House Bill 3 will prepare our youngest students for long-term success by investing in full-day, high quality Pre-K for low-income students. The bill also dedicates more money for dual language immersion education.
- The Texas Plan allows parents of students with learning disabilities in grades 3-8 to enter a program for additional services from their district.
- The Texas Plan allocates resources to low-income students on a sliding scale (rather than an equal weight) to prioritize students with the highest needs. It also provides more funding to schools with higher concentrations of economically disadvantaged students and generational poverty.
- School districts are equipped with the resources to identify and intervene at the earliest signs of student dyslexia and related disorders.