

OUR SCHOOLCHILDREN DEPEND ON YOU.

Rockwall ISD's commitment to academic excellence is unwavering. We are determined to provide our students with the tools they need to flourish.

Recently, a State District Court Judge ruled the state has "failed to meet its constitutional duty to suitably provide for Texas public schools," and directed the Legislature to develop a more responsible plan for funding our schools.

While the court ruling is a step in the right direction, our elected leaders in the Texas Senate and House welcome your input and opinion.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bailey

RISD Superintendent



Chris Cuny

School Board President

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS.
URGE THEM TO
SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

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ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

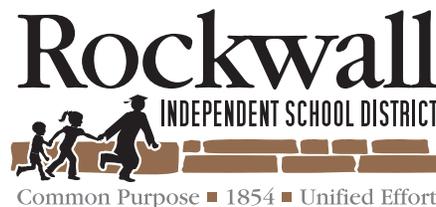
Chris Cuny, President
Linda Mitchell Duran, Vice President
Stephanie Adams, Secretary
Jon Bailey
Russ Childers
Leigh Plagens
Jim White

SUPERINTENDENT

Jeff Bailey

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Rockwall ISD, a diverse and unified community embracing endless learning possibilities, is to inspire and develop the unique abilities of our children to become passionate learners, extraordinary citizens and authentic leaders of the 21st century by cultivating an engaging learning environment based on high standards and expectations in a culture of kindness and compassion.



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The Rockwall Independent School District encourages staff, parents and community members to contact state legislators via e-mail, phone or postal mail in order to express their opinions regarding school funding, high stakes testing and other legislative issues.

Rockwall ISD is an active member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and the Texas Association of School Boards and in general supports the TASA and TASB legislative platforms. Much of the information contained in this brochure has been provided by the TASA.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE EDUCATION TEXAS' TOP PRIORITY.



ROCKWALL ISD 2015 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

ROCKWALL ISD SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.

Restore funding cuts for Texas schools.

To ensure the highest quality education for our schoolchildren, Rockwall ISD urges the Texas Legislature to restore education funding to the 2010 level. State leaders must develop an adequate, more equitable funding formula to make sure school districts have the capacity to meet student educational achievement needs, growing enrollment and costs associated with the construction of new facilities, especially in fast growth districts.



Protect the Teacher Retirement System.

The Texas Legislature should continue the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) in its current structure. It is a well-managed pension plan that has served as an important recruitment and retention tool for public school educators. TRS should continue as a defined benefit retirement system, benefits our teachers have earned through years of service and commitment to our schoolchildren.

Improve accountability in public education.

Passed in 2013, House Bill 5 should not be substantially modified before it is fully implemented so wise reforms have adequate time to improve the quality of education for our schoolchildren. Districts across Texas also urge state leaders to provide the resources necessary to achieve reasonable standards and expectations for college and career readiness, while adjusting the State Accountability System to simplify ratings for individual campuses and school districts.

Reduce unnecessary standardized testing.

The number of standardized tests, and our emphasis on such testing, should be reduced as it limits opportunities for educators to engage our students and cultivate individual talents. District leaders across the state believe local school districts should work closer with parents and educators to develop a more accurate accountability system that encompasses multiple assessments, is cost efficient, and more accurately reflects what students know.



Oppose voucher programs that remove funds from public schools.

Rockwall ISD opposes sending state public school funds to private schools managed by for-profit entities. These voucher programs, government grants, and other private school entitlements would potentially send billions of our tax dollars to private schools with no standards for accountability or transparency. Programs like these undermine the public school system and create additional hardships regarding adequate funding for the 4.9 million students in Texas public schools.

Support parental and community control of local schools.

Rockwall ISD believes that locally elected School Boards best understand the values and needs of their school district and should be empowered to set the tax rate for the day-to-day maintenance and operations without an election. School districts also should be given increased flexibility in allowing their teachers and students to foster innovation and best practices for classroom instruction.

ROCKWALL ISD FAST FACTS

99% of our students are graduating from high school with 92% participating in extra or co-curricular activities.

For each of the past 8 years, our property tax rate has either stayed the same or been reduced, earning Rockwall ISD numerous awards for transparency and financial management. In fact, Rockwall ISD's tax rate is the lowest it's been in the past 20 years.

Rockwall ISD continues to excel with 100% of our schools receiving the highest state rating for academic achievement even though education funding has been reduced by 32%.

After reducing state education funding by \$5.4 billion in the 2011 legislative session, state leaders restored only 68% of this funding in the 2013 session.

1,000 Rockwall ISD students are in advanced placement classes while the average SAT score in our district is far above the state average.

Rockwall ISD has grown by 2,500 students since 2007 while our state funding has been reduced by 32%.