MAJOR SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM ENACTED AND RECAPTURE REDUCED (HB 3)

» House Bill 3 makes large investments in public education with a total of $4.5 billion for school finance reform
» Reduces recapture statewide by $3.6 billion, significantly reducing HISD’s recapture payments in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
» Increases the Basic Allotment from $5,140 to $6,160 per student
» Increases the state’s share of public education funding from 38% to 45%

FUNDS FOR FULL DAY PRE-K AND HIGH-NEEDS STUDENTS (HB 3)

» House Bill 3 also funds full-day Pre-K for eligible four-year-olds
» Increases the compensatory education weight for low-income students
» Increases the special education weight to provide more resources for children with disabilities
» Creates a new dual-language allotment for non-English and English-speaking students
» Creates a new Dyslexia weight to identify and serve this population of students
» Restores state-funded transportation dollars to recapture school districts
» Expands of Career and Technical Education funding to middle school, now 7th – 12th grade

NEW SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDS, AND NEW STANDARDS FOCUSED ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

» House Bill 1 appropriates $100 million for a new school safety allotment for equipment, facilities, technology, training and personnel
» Senate Bill 500 includes $100 million for one-time costs to strengthen school facilities
» Senate Bill 11 increases mental health supports for students, including trauma-informed care and suicide prevention, as well as additional training for educators
» House Bill 906 forms a special task force to study the mental health needs of students and make recommendations to the 87th Texas Legislature

HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY FUNDS

» Funding for Hurricane Harvey recovery secured from the state’s Rainy Day Fund

OTHER LEGISLATION ADOPTED

» House Bill 2184 codifies HISD’s practices to create a pathway back to the regular classroom for justice-involved youth
» Senate Bill 213 extends the use of Individual Graduation Committees for another four years, allowing 11th and 12th graders who are otherwise strong students, but unable to pass one or two STAAR end-of-course exams to graduate or go to the next grade level
» Senate Bill 1746 adds previously incarcerated youth and children of incarcerated parents to the at-risk definition in state law
» Senate Bill 1679 provides automatic Pre-K eligibility for four-year-old students who already attended a three-year-old Pre-K program, making it easier for families to enroll children in Pre-K.