



Houston County School District 2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



SOFTENING THE SCHOOLS

Schools are seeing an increasing need for mental health support among students. By providing one licensed mental health therapist at each high school, we can help students manage stress, improve academic success, and build resilience for life beyond high school graduation.



STANDARDIZED TESTING AND WORKFORCE DEMANDS

We support updating standardized testing to emphasize real-world, performance-based skills that align with the needs of today's workforce. Shifting assessments toward growth and practical application will better prepare students for success in college, careers, and life.



PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY

We oppose expanding the current Promise Scholarship program and ask for consistent transparency and accountability measures to be applied to all schools receiving public funds. Ensuring equitable oversight upholds the high standards expected in public education.



FULLY FUND QBE WITH POVERTY WEIGHT

Full funding is critical to student success. Improve the QBE formula by adding a poverty weight.



FLOATING STATEWIDE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Recognizing the floating statewide homestead exemption as a state exemption instead of a local exemption would allow local school districts to consider opting-in to the homestead exemption by removing the 5-mill penalty. This change promotes fairness and ensures schools have the resources needed to meet rising educational demands.



EXPAND SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Competitive salaries and benefits are essential to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff who shape the future of our students every day. Investing in compensation strengthens our workforce, reduces turnover, and ensures stability and excellence in every classroom. Fund part of the healthcare benefits for classified employees.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- Annual Safety Funds
- Return to Work Bill
- Support for TRS
- Interstate Compact Bill for School Psychologists
- Partnership with Executive Cabinet

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Richard Rogers

Board Members

Helen Hughes, Chair
 Dave Crockett
 Mark Ivory
 Clyde Jackson, Jr.

Dr. Rick Unruh, Vice Chair
 Lori Johnson
 Jon Nichols



Houston County Legislative Delegation

Senator John Kennedy
 Senator David Lucas
 Senator Larry Walker, III
 Representative Bethany Ballard
 Representative Shaw Blackmon
 Representative Anissa Jones
 Representative Noel Williams, Jr.