



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

September 30, 2020

INTERIM CHARGE #1 – House Bill 3

Question 1: Can the state delay implementation of the teacher incentive pay program to push it out to the next biennium?

No. For Richardson ISD, loss of TIA funding would possibly mean an end to our ACE program which has shown proven results for some of our most vulnerable students in closing the achievement gap.

If so, what would be the impact on the current budget, as well as budget implications for the 2022-23 biennium?

Current budget: Richardson ISD implemented the ACE program in 2018 and teacher salaries were paid with funds from grant funds in the amount of \$2,000,000. In order to continue the program for 2020-2021 (not expand it) we are using \$1,000,000 in anticipated funds from the Teacher Incentive Allotment as some grant funds have stopped.

2022-23 biennium: RISD plans to continue the ACE program for the foreseeable future with funding provided by the Teacher Incentive Allotment. Expanding the ACE program is a budget priority and as a result, other important programs or staff will be reduced by at least \$3 million, or the ACE program could be reduced or eliminated altogether.

Question 2: Does the state have any obligation to ensure that newly awarded salaries are carried forward from year-to-year all other conditions being equal?

Yes. The state should continue to provide funding for the teacher salary increases that were mandated (as part of HB 3) in the 86th legislative session. Otherwise, school district budgets will not have adequate funding to maintain current salaries and meet rising costs.

Question 3: Is the state capable of providing the additional financial resources so school districts can maintain the new salaries awarded post-HB 3? *No comment.*

Question 4: What impact does the "no new revenue - tax cap" of 2.5 percent have on a school district's ability to continue the pay raises or changes in salary scheduled adopted for the 2019-20 school year?

The tax cap severely limits Richardson ISD's ability to collect revenue to meet rising costs and will prevent the district from giving new raises in the future. With districts capped and costs increasing, there are little to no funds remaining for salary increases or future mandated legislative requirements.

Questions 5-9 re: HB 1842 (84R), HB 22 (85R), SB 1882 (85R) and HB 3906
Does not apply; no answer.

Question 10: Other than checking a box that a report has been filed with TEA, has this legislation (SB 1873 - 85th session) resulted in any changes in the PE programs offered to students? Is Texas using any of this data or trends that Texas students are healthier and more physically active?

The report is just "checking of the box". Richardson ISD had steps in place to make sure we had a high quality PE program prior to this bill, and we continue those steps every year to make sure we meet and exceed SB1873 requirements. I have not seen anything from Texas as using any data from this report.