

AISD Priorities for 81st Legislative Session

Trustees approved Guiding Principles for the 81st Legislative Session, which is scheduled to convene on January 13, 2009. AISD's operating costs, and the establishment of mechanisms to offset the costs continues to be a legislative priority, as well as an Accountability system that penalizes large urban school districts with diverse student populations.

For example, every year the District spends more than \$28 million in costs associated with Social Security payroll taxes, which it is required to pay employees. Many of the surrounding districts are not required to pay Social Security taxes. This results in an unfair disadvantage to AISD in regards to teacher recruitment.

In regards to Accountability, districts like AISD are penalized for diversity because they are held accountable for more student indicators within the system than districts with more homogenous student populations. The District's proposed solution supports an accountability system based on academic improvement.