

A Letter to the House and Senate Members of the HB3 Conference Committee:

Currently only 20% of eighth graders in Texas are completing a postsecondary degree within 6 years of scheduled high school graduation vs. our state's goal of 60% by 2030.

We are supportive and appreciative of the proposed \$6.3 Billion increase in funding to our schools, which represents a 5% increase in state investment. However, we can't triple student achievement to meet this critical goal, unless increased investments are systemic and strategically focused on improving student achievement.

We support a final school finance bill that provides enough discretionary dollars to districts, net of any mandated pay raise, that allows them to fully fund the key Texas Commission on Public School Finance reforms that will improve outcomes:

- High quality, full day prekindergarten
- Additional resources for low income students
- Paying our best teachers substantially more and sooner in their career -- true strategic teacher compensation based on fair but robust multiple-measure evaluations
- Providing incentives to teachers to teach in our most challenged schools - schools in need of a dramatic turnaround in student outcomes
- Rewarding districts for graduating students postsecondary ready and supporting them in accessing college, career or the military.

We commend your focus and commitment to school finance reform this session. We know these are tough decisions, but we believe that this student-focused approach will ensure Texas' economy remains vibrant for years to come. Thank you in advance for your leadership.

Sincerely,

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