

## ADVOCACY

# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the Inaugural Advocacy Newsletter

Last month, the CFBISD Council of PTAs Advocacy Chair, Aria Dean, conducted a survey to better understand our district's priorities and advocacy needs. The results showed that our CFB community wants clear, easy-to-digest information about legislative updates and opportunities to get involved in advocacy. That's why we're launching this inaugural Advocacy Newsletter — to keep you informed, empowered, and connected.

For more information regarding the survey results, or to get more involved in advocacy, contact Aria Dean at [ariasdean@gmail.com](mailto:ariasdean@gmail.com)



### ● Education Policy Advocacy

Education policy advocacy is about making sure the voices of families, educators, and communities are heard when decisions are made that affect our schools. Advocacy can mean staying informed about proposed laws, sharing feedback with legislators, or helping others understand how policies impact students and teachers.

### ● Advocacy Chair

The Advocacy Chair serves as a bridge between the district, PTA members, and lawmakers — keeping families updated on education issues, encouraging civic engagement, and helping our community speak with one strong, unified voice on behalf of all children.

Currently, CFBISD has only one individual serving as both the Council of PTAs Advocacy Chair and a local PTA Advocacy Chair— meaning there is currently just one advocacy chair for the entire district. We need more parent advocates to join this important work and help amplify our collective voice.

# Top Legislative Issues Affecting CFBISD — and How We're Responding

The Texas Legislature plays a powerful role in shaping how our public schools operate—determining everything from classroom funding and teacher pay to campus safety and parental engagement. As new laws and budget priorities emerge, districts like CFBISD must continually adapt to meet state requirements while staying true to our mission: providing every student with a safe, inclusive, and high-quality education. Below are some of the most pressing legislative issues impacting our district—and how we're responding with transparency, advocacy, and action.

## 1. School Funding & Recapture

Public school funding remains one of the most significant statewide challenges. Texas' current "recapture" system requires property-wealthy districts, like CFBISD, to send a large share of locally collected tax dollars back to the state—**\$24.7 million** this year alone.

While the intent of recapture is to promote equity across districts, the system has not kept pace with inflation or the rising costs of staffing, utilities, and student services.

### How CFBISD Is Responding:

- The district has launched a **multi-year financial remediation plan** to address structural deficits while protecting classroom learning.
- We're evaluating **staffing ratios, operational efficiencies, and program consolidations** to align expenses with enrollment.
- Leadership continues to advocate for **school finance reform** that allows local funds to stay in local classrooms.



## 2. Teacher Pipeline & Staffing Support

Teacher recruitment and retention have become pressing statewide issues. Fewer people are entering the teaching profession, and many veteran educators are leaving due to workload, certification barriers, and cost of living pressures.

### How CFBISD Is Responding:

- The district has expanded its **"Grow Your Own" educator pathways**, helping paraprofessionals and college students earn teaching certifications while working in our schools.
- We continue to provide **competitive compensation** within our financial limits and invest in **leadership development programs** that prepare staff for future roles.
- Through **strategic partnerships** with universities and teacher residency programs, we're creating pipelines for high-need subjects such as math, science, and special education.
- Professional development remains centered on **student engagement, classroom management, and social-emotional learning** to ensure that every student learns from a qualified, confident, and caring educator.

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### 3. Parent Engagement, Student Well-Being & Safety

The 89th Texas Legislative Session brought a wave of new laws focused on parental rights, student well-being, and campus safety. From new parental-consent requirements to emergency operations mandates, the goal is to increase transparency and protection for families and students.

#### How CFBISD Is Responding:

- We are updating district policies to ensure full compliance with new laws—especially in areas of **health services, mental health access, and instructional materials**.
- Each campus has implemented a **comprehensive safety protocol**, including staff training, upgraded communication training, and coordination with local law enforcement.
- We've expanded **parent communication tools**, including digital translation and bilingual outreach, so all families can stay informed in the language they understand best.
- Parent engagement is now woven into our leadership framework—ensuring families have a seat at the table when discussing issues that affect their children.

*Advocacy is not about politics—it's about working together to ensure every child in CFBISD has access to a high-quality education in a safe, supportive environment.*



## What Parents Can Do to Advocate and Stay Engaged

### 1. Stay Informed

- Read monthly Advocacy Newsletters and visit [www.cfbisd.edu](http://www.cfbisd.edu) for timely updates on issues and district responses.
- Follow your campus and PTA Council on social media to receive short, actionable updates.

### 2. Be a Voice for Public Education

- Learn about **how school funding works** and share factual information with your neighbors. Many people are unaware that recapture diverts local funds away from classrooms.
- **Contact your state legislators** to respectfully express your support for fair, transparent funding for public schools. Personalized stories from parents make a strong impact.

### 3. Partner with Your School

- Attend PTA meetings, district forums, and budget workshops to learn more about how funding and staffing decisions affect your campus.
- Volunteer your time or talents in areas that strengthen safety, belonging, and student enrichment.

### 4. Model Civic Engagement

- Talk with your children about how advocacy and community service make a difference. Encourage them to write, create, or speak about issues that matter to them.