



Community Schools Legislative Priorities

In order to expand the Community School model across Texas as an evidence-based and comprehensive solution to the root problems facing struggling schools, Save Texas Schools recommends these legislative priorities:

HB1891: This legislation both defines the Community School model and offers it as a strategy to current sanctions.

Defines Community Schools according to national standards, allowing for various efforts in Texas to align with a comprehensive set of proven and evidence-based Community School reforms.

This definitional bill allows parents and teachers at certain persistently low-performing schools, as well as other schools that would benefit from this model, to become a recognized Community School, in which parents, teachers and other community stakeholders form a School Community Partnership Team for the purpose of assessing the needs and challenges of their school, developing a community-based school improvement plan, and coordinating campus resources and community partners to support the success of the campus.

Offers a comprehensive Community School strategy as an alternative to current sanctions for low-performing campuses.

This bill allows parents and teachers at low-performing schools, including those facing reconstitution, to develop a Community School, in which parents, teachers and other community stakeholders form a School Community Partnership Team for the purpose of assessing the needs and challenges of their school, developing a community-based school improvement plan, and coordinating campus resources and community partners to support the success of the campus. Campuses successfully implementing a Community School plan would be exempt from reconstitution.

HB1892: Creates the Community School Planning Grant, which would provide for the funding of a Community School coordinator on a campus, as well as support for planning activities.

The Community School Planning Grant provides multi-year grants for the planning and implementation of Community School initiatives. Grant awards can be used to support a campus community school coordinator and/or support for the development of a School Community Partnership Team and planning activities. \$5 million would provide 200 campuses with \$25,000 per year for planning. The fund could also be used towards

funding community school coordinators. \$5 million would provide 83 campuses with coordinators at \$60,000 each academic year.