

# 7

## Things to Ensure Equity

### IDRA Recommendations for the Texas School Funding Conference Committee

1

Principle:

"Equal return for equal tax effort" is one of the principles of a fair school finance system.

Recommendation:

If there must be tax compression, adopt the House statewide tax compression proposal.

2

Principle:

School district funding decisions should be based on current property wealth data.

Recommendation:

Adopt the Senate proposal to use current-year property values in funding formulae.

3

Principle:

Where students live should not dictate the quality of their local school.

Recommendation:

Eliminate the two additional golden pennies in the House bill and tie remaining golden penny yields to districts in the 99th percentile of wealth per student.

4

Principle:

English learners and students at risk of dropping out deserve excellent educational opportunities just like all other students.

Recommendation:

Adopt the House bill's bilingual education and compensatory education allotment spending guidelines.

5

Principle:

Investing in all English learners is critical to the success of all Texans.

Recommendation:

Increase the funding weight for all English learners so that it more accurately reflects the costs of providing an excellent education.

6

Principle:

Communities impacted by education policies should have a key say in the creation of those policies.

Recommendation:

Restore the duties to the State Board of Education that were shifted to the commissioner.

7

Principle:

Fair funding should be based on an accurate calculation of costs and student needs, not on the results of a single test.

Recommendation:

Eliminate all outcomes-based funding.

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