



A MESSAGE FROM
SUPERINTENDENT
DR. KEN GREGORSKI



October 9, 2023

Dear Katy ISD Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Last week, Governor Abbott released his [agenda](#) for the third special legislative session that commenced today. The agenda was designed with a sole focus on “school choice,” border security, public safety, and banning COVID-19 mandates for private employers. What is absent from the agenda is the fact that there is not a single reference to public education funding, nor the teacher salaries that support the 5.9 million public education students across our state. The agenda is clear. Providing school choice is the main priority. Adequately funding public education is not.

To provide additional clarity, I would like to share a few facts about public school finance with our Katy ISD community.

- The Texas school finance system does not increase funding when inflation rises, and never has.
- Katy ISD is dealing with massive increases in utility costs, fuel, insurance, cafeteria food, construction costs, and other operational expenses.
- Katy’s tax base is growing, but contrary to common belief, Katy ISD schools do not see a single dollar to our general fund from the additional tax revenue generated by our home and business owners.
- The Basic Allotment that funds every public school child in Texas has remained stagnant since 2019.
- During the 88th Texas Legislature, regular session, our elected officials allocated \$4 billion dollars in new funding for public education and those dollars remain unspent in state coffers.
- Our lawmakers have the opportunity right now, to meet their promise to fully fund public education and to stop holding our children, teachers, and families hostage to school voucher negotiations.
- School choice and public education funding should be two separate issues, not one.
- Addressing public school funding now would enable districts like Katy to keep up with rising costs while continuing to raise the bar for student achievement, attract high-quality educators, provide safe learning environments, and further bolster the economic engine of our community.

Our district will be posting social media information about these topics over the next few weeks, and I’ll keep you updated as the session progresses. In the meantime, I encourage our parents, staff, and community to think about contacting our [Governor’s Office](#) and [your elected officials](#) to talk about what Katy ISD and your schools mean to you, and how important it is to support teachers and staff.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children and allowing us the opportunity to partner with you in educating the future of our community.

Ken Gregorski, Ed.D.
Superintendent