



City of Hilshire Village PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Spring Branch was organized into an independent school district in 1946 and remains committed to providing an excellent educational experience for every child; and,

Whereas, SBISD embraces a range of diverse school communities in one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas. District schools educate children from all over the world, and student populations reflect the increasing diversity of Texas and the nation; and,

Whereas, the Texas public school finance model, under which local revenue in excess of entitlement is recaptured by the State has negatively impacted the financial status of the district as it allows the State to remove property tax dollars from SBISD schools. Further, there are over 1,000 school districts in Texas and 160 are designated "recapture" districts; and,

Whereas, As SBISD is considered property wealthy by the state, it is a "recapture" district, meaning it is required by law to send "excess local revenue" back to the State. This year, SBISD's estimated recapture payment will be roughly \$87M; and

Whereas, SBISD is the 39th largest school district paying the 10th highest recapture payment, even though 57% of SBISD students are economically disadvantaged; and,

Whereas, 21% of SBISD local property tax receipts go to the State. That percentage will increase and become financially unsustainable for SBISD – if no meaningful changes are made to the school funding formula this legislative session; and,

Whereas, The City of Hilshire Village is in support of legislation that raises the basic allotment benefit by \$1,000 for every Texas public school student which will reduce recapture payments; and

Whereas, The City of Hilshire Village is in support of legislation that adds an automatic inflation adjustment and cost of education adjustment to the school funding formula; and full credit for the local optional homestead exemption SBISD affords its taxpayers,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hilshire Village, on behalf of all the citizens, do hereby support SBISD in the 88th Texas Legislative session and believe they should be fully funded to better ensure a proper education for our children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my signature and the seal of the City of Hilshire Village, this 21st day of March, 2023.

Robert F. Buesinger, Mayor

Attest

Cassie Stephens, City Secretary

Dear Residents,

Spring Branch ISD recently invited all six Village mayors and respective city council members to attend an informational presentation led by SBISD Superintendent – Dr. Jennifer Blaine, SBISD CFO – Christine Porter, and the district's School Finance Advocacy Team (SFAT) steering committee. The aim of the meeting was to educate us on the concerning financial situation facing the district and learn how we, as a community, can help advocate for the district during the 88th Texas Legislative session currently underway in Austin.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- As SBISD is considered property wealthy by the state, it is a "recapture" district, meaning it is required by law to send "excess local revenue" back to the State. **This year, SBISD's estimated recapture payment will be roughly \$87M.**
- **21% of your SBISD property tax payment goes to the State.** That percentage will increase and become financially unsustainable for SBISD – if no meaningful changes are made to the school funding formula this legislative session.
- **SBISD is the 39th largest school district and pays the 10th highest recapture payment, even though 57% of SBISD students are economically disadvantaged.** FYI: There are over 1,000 school districts in Texas and 160 are designated "recapture" districts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Call, email, write letters or postcards to SBISD lawmakers*** and tell them to:
 - **Support legislation that raises the Basic Allotment by \$1000 (minimum)** this legislative session. Raising the Basic Allotment benefits every district, every Texas public school student, and reduces SBISD's recapture payment. Raising the Basic Allotment is a top priority and an easy ask to make!
 - **Support legislation that adds an automatic inflation adjustment and cost of education adjustment to the school funding formula.** (*Links to legislator contacts, district and SFAT presentations and brochures, and more listed below.)
2. **Stay informed.** To receive legislative updates, regarding bills impacting SBISD and calls to action, please email partner@springbranchisd.com. Calls to action will include detailed scripts you can follow to make advocating fast and simple.
3. **Spread the word.** Make your neighbors aware of the funding situation and encourage them to help advocate. If you are a member of a community, civic, faith-based, or professional organization that you feel would be interested in learning more and advocating, please email partner@springbranchisd.com.
4. **Follow SBISD on social media** and share finance-related posts on your social.
[SBISD on Facebook](#)
[SBISD on Twitter](#)
[SBISD on Instagram](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

The way Texas public schools are funded is very complicated, but there are many resources available that break it down and offer easy-to-follow advocacy tools. Advocacy does work! Lawmakers pay close attention when constituents reach out to them.

[SBISD #FULLYFUNDSBISD Campaign](#) (links to informational videos, community letters, 88th legislature, SFAT, additional resources)

[SBISD School Finance Advocacy Team \(SFAT\)](#) (links to meeting videos, brochures, and presentations)

[Texas Legislature Online](#) (follow bills here)

HERE'S HOW HILSHIRE VILLAGE IS ADVOCATING:

- Mayoral Proclamation
- Attending meetings alongside SBISD administrators, board members and parent/community advocates with lawmakers in Austin and in Houston
- Encouraging residents to get educated on the SBISD funding issue and advocate.

SBISD has a long and well-respected track record as a strong school district. Let's do our part to #FULLYFUNDSBISD by making our voices heard in Austin this legislative session!

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert F. Buesinger