



# Bullard Independent School District

*Excellence Through Education*

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*Keith Bryant, Superintendent*

## **Select Committee on Public School Finance Weights, Allotments & Adjustments** **MID-SIZE SCHOOLS AND THE MID-SIZE ADJUSTMENT**

### **Origin**

In 1995, the Texas Legislature saw fit to address the issue of diseconomies of scale to school districts with an ADA of less than 5000. By implementing the mid-size adjustment, schools could benefit financially from an adjusted allotment. It was implemented in the 1996-1997 school year at an adjustment level of .0000045 increasing annually until reaching the full level of .000025 in the 2000-2001 school year.

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature recognized the need to right a wrong that had been in place since the inception of the mid-size adjustment. Chapter 41 schools, which had previously been unable to access the adjustment, now receive the benefits of the mid-size adjustment.

### **Unique Facts**

- There are approximately 230 mid-size school districts in Texas. This represents 20% of the school districts.
- Of the Chapter 41 districts in the state, approximately 20% of them are mid-size schools.
- Mid-size schools serve approximately 600,000 students that comprise 15% of the total student population in the state.
- The average financial impact on schools that receive the mid-size adjustment is around \$900,000 per fiscal year.
- In most communities, the mid-size school is either the largest or one of the two to three largest employers in that community.

### **Expenditures**

The mid-size adjustment is used to support the diseconomies of scale in qualifying schools in offering instruction to students at the basic program level. While all districts use the mid-size adjustment as part of their general revenue stream, staffing and purchasing are two examples of how the mid-size adjustment helps to balance an otherwise unequal playing field. Many school districts may need one and a half teachers to teach physics, but instead have to hire two to meet the needs. When purchasing food commodities or other items in bulk, larger schools normally receive better per unit pricing than mid-size schools.

Perhaps the greatest use of the adjustment is as supplemental funding of mandates that are either unfunded or underfunded and compensating for inflationary and uncontrollable costs. Examples of these include transportation costs, technology costs, utility costs, continuing salary adjustments, and special programs.

### **Bullard ISD Example**

- Mid-side adjustment generates approximately \$500,000 per year for the district.
  - Transportation Allotment - \$155,000 per year
    - Cost to purchase 2 buses = \$166,000
    - Fuel cost per year = \$134,000
    - Mid-size adjustment used to cover transportation = \$145,000
  - Technology Allotment - \$56,000 per year
    - Cost of technology per year per child to educate - \$200 (2000 students x \$200 = \$400,000)
    - Mid-size adjustment used to cover technology - \$344,000
  - Gifted and Talented Allotment - \$48,301 per year
    - Cost of 1 GT teacher district-wide - \$47,000
    - Cost of GT Supplies for 5 campuses - \$20,000
    - Mid-size adjustment used to cover Gifted and Talented - \$18,699
- The mid-size adjustment is completely used up by supplementing these three programs, and yet our school district is responsible for funding other special programs that are not fully funded or funded at all.