

**Candidate Nancy Bean for Texas House of Representatives District 93
Responses to Keller ISD Council of PTAs 2018 Candidate Questionnaire**

1. Recent events have put a focus on school safety and security. If elected, what criteria would you use to prioritize safety recommendations? What will be the funding source for these measures?

As a legislator, I will prioritize community and school safety standards to include:

- Universal background checks for the purchase of weapons and ammunition
- Increased funding for school counselors
- Increased funding for preventive health care including mental health
- Decreased emphasis on standardized high-stakes assessment (This assessment creates unhealthy school climates and relationships.) I will also support security measures already in place
- School Site Emergency Safety plans and drills
- Bullying policies and intervention

2. The A-F campus and school district rating systems are complex as well as controversial. How do you respond to the critics of this system? Elementary, Intermediate, and Middle Schools rating are based solely on the STAAR exam. What changes would you make to the rating system and the STAAR exam? What other indicators do you think are relevant to evaluate a campus or a school district?

As a parent and a public educator, I am appalled by the move to reduce education to a market commodity and accountability to a single standardized measure. Our children are not widgets but individuals and our schools are not factories but gardens. Assessment should be incorporated into daily learning in such a way that it enriches the classroom rather than robs the classroom of time and resources. Best practice assessment includes hands-on projects and products which reflect the knowledge and skills attained. Campuses and districts are best evaluated by student involvement in active learning to include music, theater, sports, clubs, and community service as well as preparation and certification for meaningful vocation.

As a legislator, I will fight for accountability which respects the community and organic nature of education.

3. Texas public school revenue per student was \$8,755 for 2017-2018 according to the Texas Education Agency's PEIMS Budgeted Financial Data. Do you think this is sufficient for Texas's 5.3 million students? What changes do you think should be made to the current tax structure to fund public schools?

The Texas Constitution requires the legislature to adequately fund public education. The legislature should be funding schools at at least 50% of the cost. The current level of funding is

inadequate and the current formulas are indecipherable. As a legislator I will fight for increased transparency in the budget and in the recaptured funds. I will also fight against the corporate loopholes which allow for unjust evaluations of corporate property, robbing public education of its revenue. I will also fight to provide more equity in school finance so that property poor districts have the same resources to educate their children as do property rich districts.

4. What is your position on vouchers and other methods to use tax revenue to fund private education?

I am on record against the use of public education funds for Vouchers and corporate charters. Public education is, by definition, accountable to the public with publicly elected trustees and community input. The use of public education funds for private endeavors robs the community school of funds and of the leadership of the children and parents who are recruited out of the community school.