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## El Paso ISD Adopts \$542 Million Budget, Strengthens Commitment to Equity and Innovation

(EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT – June 24, 2024) — The El Paso Independent School District Board of Trustees adopted a comprehensive \$542 million budget for the 2024–2025 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2024. This budget reflects strategic decisions aligned with the district's visionary Hopes & Dreams Strategic Blueprint, prioritizing people and equitable student success.

El Paso ISD's Strategic Blueprint, developed in collaboration with the community, focuses on educational equity, innovative learning environments, and fiscal responsibility. These guiding principles ensure efficient resource allocation to enhance student outcomes while maintaining financial stability.

"This board will continue to prioritize student academic achievement while ensuring the long-term financial stability of El Paso ISD," said Israel Irrobali, El Paso ISD Board President. "We will continue to make sound financial decisions to guarantee a strong and stable future for our students, staff and the entire El Paso ISD community."

Despite the financial constraints many school districts are facing, associated with no increase in state funding since 2019, the district remains steadfast in bringing a budget for the Board's consideration that prioritizes student and staff success. To maintain a competitive edge and fiscal responsibility, the Administration has reviewed and analyzed the compensation plan and other employee supplemental pay. All the while ensuring that resources are strategically allocated to best impact student experience.

The 2024–2025 budget allocates funding to support the district's strategic blueprint by enhancing the academic experience, as well as increasing counseling and mental health support services for all students. Additionally, the district continues to bring new initiatives such as the expansion to the Montessori program, extended day learning programs, middle school algebra for all, elementary fine arts expansion, aerospace programming, redesign of the gifted and talented program, to name a few. The new programming is designed to meet the diverse needs of our student body. These efforts aim to foster a supportive and enriching educational environment, leading to improved academic performance, higher student engagement, and better overall well-being for students.

One proud highlight of employee benefits is that for the fourth consecutive year, El Paso ISD employees will see no cost increase to their healthcare plans. The district has committed to a one-time infusion of \$4.5 million to support the healthcare program. Additionally, they have adjusted rates in areas of supplemental pay listings such as the extra performance pay/instructional stipends primarily in





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academic and extracurricular programming. As well as revisions to the miscellaneous pay and substitute pay rate listings.

"Guided by the district's strategic blueprint, we involve a cross-section of stakeholders in the budgeting process," said Superintendent Diana Sayavedra. "The end result reflects who we are as a district community, an expression of our values and aspirations, and our vision for the future."

Since Superintendent Sayavedra's arrival, El Paso ISD has embraced forward-thinking solutions and community engagement, paving the way for a brighter future for its students. This innovative approach is central to the district's strategy, especially in light of the current financial climate. By introducing new programming that aligns with community desires, developing a strong principal pipeline, closely examining vacancies, selling surplus properties, and creating a destination district where students are eager to learn and people are excited to work, El Paso ISD is setting a new standard for excellence.

In 2022, employees received the largest compensation increase in the district's history with a seven percent raise, followed by a two percent raise the next year. The Board of Trustees and Administration deeply value its employees and will continue to seek opportunities within the budget to consider additional one-time compensation adjustments throughout the coming year.

For more information on El Paso ISD's strategic blueprint and budgetary updates, please visit www.episd.org.

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