



### Comparison of Home Rule & Independent School Districts

The League of Women Voters seeks to provide current and reliable information on topics of concern to Dallas area voters. It has been proposed that voters in Dallas ISD sign a petition forcing the creation of a commission charged with developing a "home rule charter" which, after approval by voters, will replace the current district structure. This chart was developed to give a side by side comparison of the two forms of organization, the current "independent school" structure and the proposed "home rule" option.

ISSUE	HRD	DISD
Must have elected board members:	NO	Yes
Able to remove Homestead Exemption:	Yes	Yes
Able to raise taxes (with public approval):	Yes	Yes
Able to change election dates (if elections are to be held) to November:	Yes	NO *
Able to set requirements to serve on governing board (such as college degree, experience, specific skills):	Yes	NO
Governing board members must be qualified voters, reside in the district and serve without compensation.	NO	Yes
Superintendent must have earned the Superintendent's Certificate outlined in Texas Law:	NO	Yes
Able to extend the school year (can extend through the summer):	Yes	Yes
Able to move to an earlier school start date in August:	Yes	NO **
Has control of the \$1.5 billion budget, all real estate, all technology, all bond funds, all liabilities:	Yes	Yes
Able to contract with a private entity to run schools:	Yes	Yes ***
Must publish annual report on student outcomes:	Yes	Yes
Must adhere to state school finance laws:	Yes	Yes
Must adhere to state minimum salary for teachers (currently \$27,300), teacher appraisal requirements, professional development requirements:	NO	Yes
Must have teacher contracts, including hearing and notice requirements for termination and non-renewals:	NO	Yes
Must have teacher planning and preparation time and duty-free lunch:	NO	Yes
TRS (Teacher Retirement System) available to eligible employees:	Yes	Yes
May use the Common Core State Standards curriculum:	Yes	NO

ISSUE	HRD	DISD
Students must take art, music, and PE classes:	NO	Yes
Must adhere to high school graduation requirements as set by the state:	Yes	Yes
Must have Special Education and Bilingual programs:	Yes	Yes
Must adhere to state accountability testing requirements (STAAR/EOC):	Yes	Yes
Must have Talented & Gifted, CATE (career and technical education), PEG (public education grant), military education:	NO	Yes
Must adhere to deaf and hard of hearing education standards:	NO	Yes
May implement International Baccalaureate (IB), Montessori, and other innovative campus and feeder pattern programs:	Yes	Yes
Must adhere to elementary class size limits (maximum 22:1)	NO****	Yes
Must adhere to student grievance process as described by Texas law:	NO	Yes
Must adhere to Texas law on student discipline, which includes requiring removal of a student who is a registered sex offender from the regular classroom:	NO	Yes
Must adhere to health & safety provisions:	Yes	Yes
Required to have local School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) & Health instruction:	NO	Yes
Required to have dropout prevention plan:	NO	Yes
Must have committees (SBDM) of parent, staff, and community members to make recommendations for campus education plans, goals and instructional programs	NO	Yes
Subject to changes in state laws and rules governing structure, program, and governance:	Yes	Yes

\* Multiple opportunities to change election dates have been given by the legislature in the past. Districts may petition the legislature to allow another opportunity.

\*\* Able to apply for waiver, and can lobby legislators for earlier start date

\*\*\* DISD contracted in the past with Edison Schools to run some schools in the district.

\*\*\*\* Unless school is under performing