



DeSoto ISD Public Hearing Rules of Engagement

The DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees and administration invite the school community to participate in Public Hearings as they are held throughout the year.

While all who have *pre-registered* will be permitted to share comments in a live-streamed, virtual forum, the district would like to inform the public of the rules of engagement for DeSoto ISD public hearings.

As a reminder, those interested in speaking during Public Hearings **MUST** pre-register to speak. Pre-registration will close at the start of the Public Hearing.

Those who pre-register will receive access information to enter the district's Zoom video-conferencing platform. Upon entry into the Zoom platform, pre-registrants will be placed in a virtual waiting room until scheduled to speak.

Pre-registrants placed in the virtual waiting room will not have access to view the public hearing while in the virtual waiting room and will need to watch the live-stream online at <http://desotoisdtx.swagit.com/live> on a separate device.

Those who pre-register to speak **MUST** display his or her camera while speaking and must display his or her name while actively participating.

When addressing the audience during the public forum, speakers' commentary must adhere to the following:

1. Everyone must model courtesy and respect. Speakers shall not employ profane or threatening language nor shall they engage in any personal attacks.
2. The public has the right to make critical and harsh remarks. However, the expectation is that the message delivered by the speaker is done so in a constructive manner with a collaborative purpose. Speakers are expected to respect both the decorum of the public meeting and the authority of the Board.
3. The Board of Trustees requests that derogatory or inflammatory statements and personal attacks on individuals be avoided. Caution should be exercised in publicly attacking specific individuals.
4. Members of the public do not have the right to disrupt the meeting. Speakers whose behavior disrupts the conduct of the public meeting or threatens the public safety are subject to removal from the meeting.



5. Speakers shall not use their commentary in an attempt to interrogate board members nor in an attempt to force the body to engage in debate; Any questions presented will be answered in writing following the meeting.
6. Speakers comments must be focused on the posted agenda item

Speakers who do not adhere to the above criteria for allowable topics for public commentary will be issued a warning and reminder to remain on topic. Those who choose to violate these rules of engagement will be muted and subject to removal from the public hearing.

If a person wishes to speak but did not pre-register, he or she may submit a comment [here](#) to be read aloud at the conclusion of the live-streamed public hearing prior to its adjournment. This link will be disabled 30 minutes after the start of the meeting.

For questions or assistance prior to or during the live-streamed, virtual public forum, please direct an email to Info@DeSotoISD.org for support.