



CARROLL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

3051 Dove Road, Grapevine, TX 76051 817.421.7380 www.southlakecarroll.edu

May 16, 2011

The Honorable Wendy Davis
State Senate
2421 W. 7th, Building A, Suite 350
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

The Honorable Jane Nelson
State Senate
1235 S. Main Street, Suite 280
Grapevine, Texas 76051

The Honorable Vicki Truitt
Texas House of Representatives
1256 Main Street, #248
Southlake, Texas 76092

Dear Senator Davis, Senator Nelson and Representative Truitt,

The Legislature considers thousands of bills every session and many deal with public education. However, legislators are failing to take action on the most urgent need facing public education in Texas today.

Everyone knows there is a structural deficit in the funding mechanism for public education, which the legislature created. This must be addressed immediately. If not, our schools will continually face funding shortfalls regardless of how many cuts are made to our local budgets.

The Robin Hood and Target Revenue funding systems do not provide appropriate funding. As a new school finance plan has not even been mentioned in Austin, let's move to the issue that *is* being considered. In order to make up for the state's \$27 billion revenue shortfall, the legislature is debating the budget for 2011-13 and is planning to make devastating cuts to school funding.

The state budget is now in the hands of the conference committee where House and Senate members will argue about whether to reduce funding to public schools by \$4 billion (Senate plan) or \$8 billion (House plan). These proposals make cuts to *current* spending levels and do not provide funding for the 80,000 additional students Texas schools expect to welcome this year.

These are staggering numbers and will seriously damage the good work that has been done in Texas public schools to increase academic excellence. Given the choice of these two bad options, we urge you to find the will to support the Senate plan. In addition, we support the use of some of the state's "Rainy Day Fund" to cover the temporary revenue shortfall that Texas is experiencing, as that is the stated purpose of the Economic Stabilization Fund.

Education must be seen as an investment in the future, not a simple "cost" to the state.

Sincere regards,

The Carroll ISD Board of Trustees

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