



# CARROLL

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## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

3051 Dove Road, Grapevine, TX 76051 817.421.7380 [www.southlakecarroll.edu](http://www.southlakecarroll.edu)

December 13, 2010

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,

As our elected legislators, we are seeking your direct help in the upcoming legislative session. Many leaders across the state have publicly acknowledged that the state's funding system for public education is broken. Rather than simply express our concerns, we want to discuss possible solutions.

Carroll ISD has already made approximately \$2 million in cuts for 2010-2011 and continues to look at the impact of all programs and operating efficiencies. Under current school finance law, we're faced with the prospect of having to cut an additional \$2M+ for 2010-2012 and 2012-2013. The district is faced with eliminating, reducing or changing: CARE Reading (academic program for struggling readers), Science Labs, Gifted & Talented Program, art, music, team teaching, block scheduling at the high school, extracurricular activities, transportation, etc.

Under the new FAST rating system, CISD has a 4 star rating, one of the highest in the state. However, the ERG model indicates we are not efficient. This basically comes down to eliminating personnel. While these cuts will definitely make us more "efficient" under the ERG model, no one can verify what impact these cuts will have on the quality of education in our district. You are all familiar with the caliber of our students and their achievements. Our community is very concerned that their children's educational experience will suffer due to the inadequacies of the state funding system.

We understand that the state is facing an enormous revenue shortfall. So while we are asking for your assistance, we are not asking for any new money during this session. We do ask that you:

1. Do everything you can to ensure that there are no cuts to public education
2. Allow elected School Board Trustees, who have the greatest knowledge of the local district's budget, to set their own tax rate & allow for additional golden pennies that would stay local
3. Use a consistent recapture rate throughout the state funding formula for Chapter 41

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

We ask that you support changes in school finance law that recognize this need and welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you on behalf of all students in the state. We appreciate your efforts and your support of public education.

Sincere regards,

*Allyson C. ... Sheri E. Williams*  
 The Carroll ISD Board of Trustees  
*Recy Baller* *Red Mowra* *John Thane*  
 Creating an environment that fosters excellence... *Sue Armstrong*

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