



**Fabens Independent School District**  
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Home of the "Wildcats"

November 10, 2010

Dear Fellow Public School Advocates/Legislators:

In our current difficult economic times, almost all public school districts are facing increasing budgetary challenges. Specifically, the most serious issue relating to increased budget pressures on our schools is the state's target revenue school funding system. Publicly available data proves that the system is highly inequitable and, because of that fact, the children attending the Fabens Independent School District have lost equal access to state educational dollars.

Regardless of the school district that they attend, all Texas students deserve an equitable, adequate, funding system that ensures everyone the same opportunity for a high quality education. On behalf of all Texas students, we ask you to join us in urging the Texas Legislature to provide adequate, equitable funding for our public schools.

It is an easily identifiable fact that 660 Texas school districts fall below the average target revenue of \$5,340 per weighted average daily attendance (WADA). This number is of serious concern to us because it includes the Fabens Independent School District. Under Texas current school funding system, a school district's location determines the level of funding that each child receives. Districts in economically prosperous areas and which have high property wealth have a disproportionate advantage under the current system. In addition, the state bases its funding for each district on a frozen point in time, disregarding the impact of rising educational costs on school district budgets. The resulting large gaps in state funding per child will keep students in lower-target-revenue districts like ours struggling to receive appropriate educational opportunities, while students in higher-target-revenue districts will have far better educational opportunities.

To effectively eliminate the funding disparities among school districts, legislators must review and amend the current school finance system. We believe that the children of Texas are our future. We believe that every child should leave the educational system with all the tools necessary to succeed, both in post-secondary education and the workplace. This can only happen if every Texas child has equitable access to the appropriate and adequate resources and educational opportunities that those resources provide. On behalf of the legion of Texas children losing opportunities because of the state funding gaps, we ask you to join us in calling for the Texas Legislature to create an equitable and adequate school district funding system.

With your support, we are confident that the Legislature will hear our plea on behalf of our children for the opportunities provided to students in districts with favorable target revenues. Thank you for joining us in seeking to preserve the integrity of public education in Texas!

Sincerely,

The Fabens Independent School District Board of Trustees

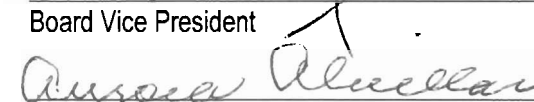
  
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