

From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 3:07 PM
To:
Subject: Spring Branch Speaks - Update on school finance

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Update on School Financing Bills

9 days in, this special session has seen "new" school finance bills that are based on the amounts and allocations from the regular session. Both the House and Senate are set to debate and vote on bills in the upcoming days. Lawmakers seem to be supporting the school funding allocation negotiated during the regular session.

What does this mean for SBISD? As these finance bills are currently written, the cuts our neighborhood schools will be forced to absorb over the next two years are covered by the changes announced by SBISD in April, and there will not be a second round of large cuts to programs and classrooms.

But wait, there are amendments...

With a special session comes new life to bills, or amendments, that did not make it to consideration in the regular Legislative session.

Below we have included two key pieces of legislation that could impact SBISD's budget and Pre K program. Please read the information below, and take a few minutes to contact our local representatives regarding these potentially costly amendments.

- **PreK Accountability (Rep. Shelton amendment to SB 1)** - Creates mandates for how to run a PreK program, including an unproven accountability program. Removes additional money (\$136,000) from our districts at a time of reduced funding, while adding testing for 4-year olds (while we do not test K-2).
- **Private School Vouchers, HB 33** - Creates reimbursement for removing children from public education, funding private school, or home schooled, students at a higher level than students in our public education system. School funding is based on the number of students; lowering the student population also lowers overall funding resulting in less money for our students. And while the state forces accountability programs and mandates on public school (TAKS, for instance), private schools are not held to the same accountability programs and mandates as public schools.

Suggested requests to lawmakers: Email or call, and use your own words, to request:

- DO NOT SUPPORT (VOTE NO) to Rep. Shelton's amendment on SB 1 attaching PreK accountability requirements.
- VOTE NO to HB 33.

Please contact:

Rep. Mark Shelton	Mark.Shelton@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
Rep. Jim Pitts	Jim.Pitts@house.state.tx.us	888-823-9190
Rep. Jim Murphy	Jim.Murphy@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0514
Rep. Beverly Woolley	Beverly.Woolley@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0696
Rep. Dwayne Bohac	Dwayne.Bohac@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0727
Rep. Hubert Vo	Hubert.Vo@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0568
Rep. Jessica Farrar	Jessica.Farrar@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0620

Easily cut and paste: Mark.Shelton@house.state.tx.us; Jim.Pitts@house.state.tx.us;
Jim.Murphy@house.state.tx.us; Beverly.Woolley@house.state.tx.us;
Dwayne.Bohac@house.state.tx.us; Hubert.Vo@house.state.tx.us;
Jessica.Farrar@house.state.tx.us

Thank you, as always, for your support of our schools.

[Spring Branch Speaks](#)

Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.

Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 32,000 students on 46 campuses, including 57% economically disadvantaged students and 33% limited-English-proficient (ESL) students.

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join, too:
www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com)

Find us on Facebook 

Legislative Committee:

David Davenport	Pam Goodson
Darci Hubbard	Susan Kellner
Valerie Paul	Chris Vierra