
From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 10:17 AM
To:
Subject: Back In Action - Spring Branch Speaks

Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* members:

We hope your school year is off to a good start. Now that the 2011 Legislative session is over, *Spring Branch Speaks* is looking toward the next Legislative session. Believe it or not, preparation to protect SBISD funding starts now, because the next legislative session is expected to be a repeat of the state budget issues and debate from this past spring. Education budgets could be even harder hit the next time around, and we want to be ready to advocate for our schools.

Spring Branch Speaks plans to update you monthly about legislative issues and happenings that impact our neighborhood schools' funding. Right now, there are three things on the SBS to-do list:

1) Keep an eye on upcoming State Legislature primary races - the key to SBISD support. In order for SBISD to retain (and hopefully return to past levels) the funding that enables our schools to continue to be successful, we must have education-minded State Representatives and Senators. Our schools could lose even more of their budget without supportive representation in the Texas Legislature. *Spring Branch Speaks* believes that investing in our children is one of the most important things our state can do, and we want local representation that agrees.

Currently, there is one open State House of Representative seat representing SBISD - District 136 Rep. Beverly Woolley is not seeking reelection. Primaries are a very important time to vote: in past races, candidates have won general elections after taking their primary with only 5% total registered voter support. ***This means a small group of voters can determine who gets elected.***

Primary elections for State Representatives and Senators are March 6, 2012. *Spring Branch Speaks* will let you know when there are candidate forums that we can attend to learn more about the potential lawmakers, and will forward the candidates' positions on education matters so we can all make informed decisions regarding our representation in Austin.

2) Keeping Tabs on the Education Conversation. *Spring Branch Speaks* is watching for any movement or discussion of education funding by our current Legislators. In past years, there have been education task forces that reviewed education funding options - if such a group is created we will work to monitor and even communicate with members. Additionally, there might be other opportunities regarding state budget decisions where our voices could be helpful to SBISD. We will

send an email out if we discover any potential for helping improve SBISD funding.

3) Build *Spring Branch Speaks* Membership. *Spring Branch Speaks* includes 1200 concerned citizens, many who actively write or call legislators. The more members we gather, the bigger our voice and impact. We know that there are many more people who can add their voices: both parents of children in SBISD and concerned neighbors who value successful education as fundamental to our community. Please help by encouraging your family and friends to visit www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com and sign up to receive future updates, if they haven't done so already. **Simply forward this email so they will also understand how SBS supports the future of our children and our community.**

Thanks for your time and help with our membership drive.

[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	Angela Martinez Gallagher*
Pam Goodson	Darci Hubbard
Susan Kellner	Emily Van Buren*
Chris Vierra	

*Special thanks to outgoing SBS Member Valerie Paul for her service this past legislative session; she has moved out of state and we wish her well. Please welcome our 2 new members, Angela Gallagher and Emily Van Buren.