

Information Alert

Standing Up for Texas Children

Make Education A Priority: A Call to Action

Please tune in for a special edition of the Equity Center Radio Podcast today at 10:45 a.m. Wayne Pierce, Executive Director at the Equity Center, will be speaking with Don Daniel, Superintendent, and Bobby Rigues, Board Vice President, both from Aledo ISD. They, along with other Aledo ISD board and community members, have initiated a grassroots effort to make education a priority among school boards, local communities, elected officials, and others. Please read below for their *Call To Action* message and act now to strengthen their efforts. Making education a priority is about all children in Texas.

Visit the [Equity Center](#) website at 10:45 a.m. today to hear this special podcast!

In 2007 and 2009, legislators were unsuccessful in addressing our school finance shortcomings. Today, Texas faces a projected \$20 billion budget deficit. The burden of depleting fund balances, reducing staff, salaries, and programs continues to threaten the pursuit of quality education.

These are difficult times. Supporting our legislators and finding a shared priority becomes vital. A new attitude; a sense of educational priority must become the foundation. Without such a foundation, solutions to the most difficult topic of school finance will never be found. We cannot wait until 2013.

A Call to Action...

As educational leaders, we have a unique opportunity that now mirrors responsibility. We can accomplish what has never been accomplished before. Together - "we" can build this needed sense of educational priority. Respectfully, we can practice democracy by coming together to create one unified voice - one message ... "Make Education a Priority"

Objective #1 (critical)

Resolution Adoption Campaign... This is a statewide campaign involving all school districts.

Within the next two/three months, consider reviewing, discussing and adopting the attached resolution:

Resolution of Acknowledgment - Make Education a Priority

(Copy of Resolution attached to e-mail)

Email us with your adoption. An updated list of resolution adoptions and other information can be found at: www.schoolpriority.com

A number of Texas Legislators, the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), the Equity Center Organization, and Joe Smith with www.TexasISD.com support our efforts and believe in creating a unified message.

(Copy of Statements of Support Document attached)

Objective #2

Local Community Awareness Campaign... An example of local community awareness is taking place in Aledo and Denison ISD. A unique letter campaign is building a solid foundation of communication and awareness. These communities are engaged in education awareness. The collection of signed letters will be shared with our legislative school and finance committee members. The letters states one line - "Make Education a Priority" *Consider taking advantage of your local football game crowds with signing stations near the entrances.

(Copy of Generic Community Awareness Letter attached)

Objective #3

Invite your Legislators to Join Us...

Contact your local legislators in both the House and Senate. Ask for a statement/letter of support. Please forward their statements to us. We will update the website and Statements of Support document.

Together as One...

This statewide initiative is not about one individual or a specific school district. It is about all of us. It is about trustees like Jim de Gararvilla (Silsbee ISD), Randy Sedlacek (Denison ISD), Diane Cox (Round Rock ISD) and many others like you who share the same passion - pursuing a quality education for all children. Together, with our legislators, "we" can support a new attitude of mutual respect and create a collective voice - one message...let's Make Education a Priority in 2011.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Additional information and updates can be found at www.schoolpriority.com and facebook "Make Education a Priority"

We have approximately 90 days to unify our message. As 2011 approaches, please check the website for a coordinate delivery of our unified message.

Respectfully,

Aledo Independent School District Board of Trustees

Bobby J Rigues Vice President LTASB 09-MT

Make Education a Priority is an adopted Initiative by the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees

Resolution Adoption Campaign

Community Awareness (Letter) Campaign

Contact Information

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Board of Trustees: Joe Dearing - President, Bobby J Rignes - Vice President, Johnny Campbell - Secretary,

Jay Stringer, Steve Bartley, David Davis