

September 23, 2013

Mr. Taylor Stephenson
Brackett ISD
P.O. Box 586
Brackettville, TX 78832-0586



Dear Mr. Stephenson:

As a member of the Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition, you are well aware of the successes our Coalition has experienced. First, we prevailed in the District Court trial and the state's school finance system was declared unconstitutionally inequitable and inadequate. In addition, we also prevailed on the issue that the school finance system has created a de facto statewide property tax.

Then, as the legislative session progressed throughout the spring, our victory on the issue of equity became the major driver in school finance decisions. So much so, that the legislature put \$2.4 billion into raising the Basic Allotment from \$4,765 in 2012-13 to \$5,040 in 2014-15. In addition, the legislature put another \$1 billion into the elimination of the Regular Program Adjustment Factor. These actions will result in substantive funding increases in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years for most of our members, ranging on average from \$250 to \$340 per WADA over the 2013-15 biennium. In addition, on several occasions, the need to address equity issues was used on the floor of each house as justification for passing the main school finance and appropriations bills.

Your work and willingness to contribute and finance the Fairness Coalition lawsuit are the reason for our success.

But, as you also know, our Fairness Coalition is having to go back to court in January to defend our gains and prove that even though some progress was made, the equity and adequacy gaps are still large and still unconstitutional.

This new retrial at the District Court level does represent an unanticipated expense and is the reason we are asking you and all Fairness Coalition members to contribute an additional \$0.50 per WADA to cover the additional cost.

The \$0.50 per WADA cost for this new phase of litigation is predicated on the fact that all current Fairness Coalition members participate. Obviously, *we need every Fairness Coalition member to participate in this funding request*, but as we promised from the beginning, this choice and the level of participation are completely up to you and your Board. Remember as you visit with your Board, because we have prevailed, we have the expectation our legal fees will be refunded.

An invoice for your district is attached. As always, thank you for your help and if you have any questions or need any assistance, please call.

Sincerely,
Jerry Vaughn
President, Texas Taxpayer & Student
Fairness Coalition
Superintendent, Taylor ISD
[512-352-6361](tel:512-352-6361)
jvaughn@taylorisd.org

Robert K. Westbrook
Chair, Finance Committee
Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness
Coalition
Superintendent, Milano ISD
[512-455-2533](tel:512-455-2533)
rwestbrook@milanoisd.net

Berhl Robertson, Jr., Ed.D
Chair, Litigation Committee
Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition
Superintendent, Lubbock ISD
[806-766-1086](tel:806-766-1086)
brobertson@lubbockisd.org