

The Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition's Litigation Fact Sheet

At the *Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition, et. al. v. Michael Williams, Commissioner, Texas Education Agency* Trial:

- Lawyers and witnesses for the *Fairness Coalition* presented testimony and massive documentation providing the primary sources of data that established facts that the state's school finance system was inequitable and inadequate.
- Data and testimony included nearly 200 specific exhibits, and several days of testimony from our expert witnesses and superintendents.
- Additional testimony and documentation was presented that showed the state's school finance scheme established a de facto statewide property tax.

Accordingly, Judge Dietz issued a verbal ruling on February 4, 2013, that the *Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition* plaintiffs were correct and the Texas school finance system was found to be unconstitutional on the grounds that it was inequitable, inadequate, and established a de facto statewide property tax.

Additionally, the *Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition's* success in court was viewed as the major driving force behind the school funding actions taken by the Legislature during the 83rd regular legislative session. As a result:

- The Legislature increased funding by \$1 billion for the biennium in order to eliminate the Regular Program Adjustment Factor (RPAF).
- Most importantly, the Legislature increased the basic allotment (BA) from \$4,765 to \$4,950 in 2013-14 and to \$5,040 in 2014-15.
- These appropriations changes are projected to deliver average funding gains of almost \$250 per WADA for *Fairness Coalition* districts in 2013-14.
- In 2014-15, the average projected funding increases per WADA over 2012-13 levels for school districts in the *Fairness Coalition* should be nearly \$340.

Since you are already a member of the Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition, a resolution to join is not necessary for our records. Simple board action to approve the additional \$0.50 per WADA contribution is sufficient. Your check will provide all the record needed for the Coalition.