

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of the State of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

Despite the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session securing some major achievements, many critical items remain that must be addressed. We know you agree that more must be done for the people of Texas, and we applaud you for exercising your constitutional authority to call for Special Session #1 to address lowering property taxes and securing our border – critical items necessary to keep Texas the global powerhouse that it is.

In addition to Special Session #1, we hope that you will also call back the Texas legislature to address other critical items for our state's future such as per-student allotment and school district recapture known as "Robin Hood". The Texas Constitution leaves little doubt that providing a strong education is not only good public policy, but an obligation of the Texas legislature.

Our schools and communities are facing extraordinary challenges that require bold leadership and renewed commitments from our legislative partners down in Austin. **The per-student basic allotment was last addressed in 2019 and despite the rising cost of inflation, which has increased by nearly 20% in the last 4 years, the basic allotment of \$6,160 per student has not been touched since then.**

Compounding this challenge is Texas's antiquated recapture formula, known as "Robin Hood" where local property tax dollars are removed from local school districts and handed to the state. For school districts in our area such as Keller ISD, Carroll ISD, and Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, that means that since 2019 alone, Keller ISD has lost over \$7 million, Carroll ISD over \$163 million, and Grapevine-Colleyville ISD over \$273 million. Dollars that could have gone back into the classrooms and to our taxpayers.

We know that addressing these issues is not easy, nevertheless, it is our collective moral obligation and the legislature's constitutional duty to do so. Texas began the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session with a \$32.7 billion surplus and ended the session with more that could be accomplished. **Lowering property taxes on behalf of all Texans and addressing the per-student basic allotment is not an either-or proposition. We can and must do both.**

Texans cannot afford one Band-Aid solution after another. Not addressing these issues has long-term implications for our communities and school districts throughout this great state.

Thanks to your leadership and our partners down in Austin, Texas has been able to maintain its status as the number one state in the nation for business and job growth. Some of our nation's largest employers relocate to Texas because of our stellar business climate, but above all, because of our state's number one commodity, our people and educated workforce.

In that spirit, we hope you will call for a separate Special Session that will task the Texas legislature with addressing the challenges highlighted above. Thank you for your hard work and for considering our point of view on this critical matter.

Regards,



Charles R. Randklev  
President | Keller ISD



Armin R. Mizani  
Mayor | City of Keller

