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Thousands of Texans say “No” to Underfunding and Over-testing

A crowd of more than 12,000 teachers, students, families and community leaders converged on the State Capitol today to tell lawmakers to fix a broken testing system and return billions of dollars in education funding cut by the 2011 legislature

“The legislature is failing our children by refusing to restore the \$5.4 billion that was taken from our students last legislative session,” said Senator Kirk Watson. “It’s past time to talk about the kids.”

Did you know:

- Texas spends **25 percent less on public education than it did 10 years ago**, accounting for inflation and student population growth.
- Texas **slashed \$5.4 billion** from public education in 2011, resulting in teacher layoffs, larger classes, school closures statewide, and the loss of college scholarships, dropout prevention, pre-K and other vital programs.
- These **cuts were based solely on faulty budget projections** - Texas now has a budget surplus of \$8.8 billion plus nearly \$9 billion in the "Rainy Day" fund.
- **Lawmakers didn't take a penny from the \$500 million private contract for standardized testing.**
- A judge recently ruled that **the way Texas funds schools unconstitutional** due to insufficient funding and unfair distribution.
- Despite a budget surplus, **Texas lawmakers now want to keep kids waiting while legal appeals drag on**, rather than restore the money they took from Texas students in 2011.

For details about the rally, petition and Save Texas Schools: www.savetxschools.org

Allen Weeks
Save Texas Schools Chair 512.653.4935

email: aweeks@austinvoices.org

Shawna Castellano
Media Outreach 512.203.677

email: media@savetxschools.org

ABOUT SAVE TEXAS SCHOOLS: Save Texas Schools is a nonpartisan statewide volunteer coalition of parents, students, educators, business leaders, concerned citizens, community groups, and faith organizations working to ensure a high quality education for all Texas students.