

Legislative Talking Points Specific To Carroll ISD

Save Our Schools. Send a message to Austin.

A Brief Look at Public School Funding Issues:

Carroll has already cut \$2 million from the budget ... next year's Expense Reduction Process will affect programs and teachers ... which will in turn affect the quality of education your child receives.

- Possible cuts beginning in the 2011-2012 school year include: Eliminate high school block scheduling, reorganizing or reducing: athletics, art, music, science lab, CARE reading and QUEST programs, eliminating some middle school electives, reducing the number of administrators & paraprofessional staff, eliminating teaming at the intermediate and/or middle school levels, increasing secondary class sizes, change school start times to reduce bus routes
- The state's current public school funding program froze revenues at 2005-2006 or 2006-2007 levels; no additional revenue to cover rising costs of transportation, utilities, teacher raises
- K-12 public school districts do not receive the benefit of rising property values like the hospital districts, cities and junior college districts do. Instead of going to your children's education, that money goes to the state
- Carroll ISD's state funding is frozen, based on 2006-2007 funding levels
- Robin Hood is not dead; this year, Carroll's Chapter 41 payment to the state is over \$12 million
- When enrollment goes down or stays even, our state revenue decreases and our Chapter 41 Robin Hood payment increases ... we are hit on both sides of the budget!
- The State of Texas expects an \$18 billion budget shortfall for the upcoming legislative session.
- The state is requesting 8 - 10 % cuts across the board
- The only new money put into public education K-12 last Legislative Session was the \$1.9 billion federal stimulus money that will expire this year
- More than 60% of school districts across the state have deficit budgets (expenses exceed revenues ... using fund balance to cover the difference)
- CISD has had a deficit budget the last three years ... the fund balance will not last forever
- There was no salary increase this year for any employees, including teachers
- The district can increase the tax rate by an additional 13 cents but must have voter approval
- The first two cents would stay entirely in Carroll and amounts to approx. \$2 million in revenue
- Over 50% of the next eleven cents would go out of district to the state
- Texas ranks 43rd out of 50 states in education spending per student
- Texas ranks 50th (bottom) in the nation with adults who have a high school diploma
- Of the 1,100 school districts in Texas, only about 100 are Chapter 41 districts that pay into the Robin Hood system
- CISD does not receive facilities funding (IFA), nor debt allotment funds (EDA), nor a transportation allotment from the State of Texas

(See Back)

Graduation Rate: 99%

Attendance Rate 97%

College Bound Seniors: 97%

Dropout Rate: 0.1%

TAKS passing rate virtually 100%

Roughly 85% of students are involved in an extra-curricular activity

Average SAT Score: 1124 + 543 Writing (above state & national averages)

Average ACT Score: 24.5 (above state & national averages)

Exemplary Rating by the Texas Education Agency and Each Campus rated Exemplary

National & State recognition for academics, athletics, and fine arts programs

Seven TBEC (Texas Business & Education Coalition) Honor Roll Schools

FIRST Rating (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas): consistent Superior Achievement
(highest standard available)

The district has seen about a 15% decrease in electricity usage

Additional utility savings are expected due to upgrades in our HVAC systems

The district will save approximately \$200,000 a year in technology expenses due to the recent bond's approval to own v. lease our fiber optic network

The new middle school will use geothermal energy and solar panels which should translate into more savings for the district

If public school funding is not addressed to provide relief to Texas school districts during the 2011 Legislative Session, there will continue to be no additional revenue for teacher raises or to cover the increased costs of transportation and utilities. Fund balances will be diminished, programs will be cut, teachers will be cut, class sizes may be increased.