



State Office
408 West 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701 • 1.800.TALK.PTA • www.txpta.org

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor's Office
Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Governor Perry,

The 82nd Legislative Session is drawing to a close, and the future of public education in Texas remains in question. The opportunity to fund education is upon us, and we urge you to Fund Texas' Future.

Texas PTA and our nearly 600,000 members understand that our economic reality is difficult, and tough decisions must be made with every aspect of the budget. We also know that Texans, regardless of their political party, believe that adequately funding education for the next two years should be the number one priority for you and our other elected officials.

The current budget proposals from the House of Representatives and Senate provide stark differences in how we prioritize the future of education. Strong leadership in the final days of this legislative session can bridge those gaps to fully fund public education for the next biennium, and we call on you to provide that guidance by leading the discussion to invest in the children of Texas.

During the last two days, Texas PTA has traveled to many areas of the state and met with parents, educators and concerned citizens who continue to express disappointment in the failure to meet the minimum funding requirements. From Harlingen to Lubbock, El Paso to Houston and Dallas to Midland, the answer is clear that Texans want our leaders in Austin to utilize additional revenue sources to mitigate drastic budget cuts in their communities. We urge you to access the balance of the Rainy Day Fund, increase appropriations from Comptroller Combs' revised revenue estimate, and consider tax increases on alcohol and tobacco products that are driving health care costs beyond our reach.

As recently as yesterday, you have once again denied our students critical funding from the Rainy Day Fund, saying we must protect these funds so we are equipped to respond to disasters affecting our state. Texas PTA agrees with you that this fund needs to be used for disasters, but we believe that the situation created by this budget crisis is disastrous for the children of Texas.

Governor Perry, time is running short, and Texas families are counting on you. Step forward for public education, and Fund Texas' Future!

Yours in supporting our future,

Sharon Goldblatt
President

