

TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS

"A Win-Win for Texas Students and Taxpayers"

June 6, 2011

Texas Lawmakers,

Taxpayer Savings Grants can save the state over \$2 billion this biennium to help plug the current budget shortfall. Taxpayer Savings Grants are a voluntary statewide program that would allow parents to transfer their child from a public school to a private school and use a Taxpayer Savings Grant to pay the tuition. The amount of the grant is equal to 60% of state average school operating expenditures or actual tuition, whichever is less.

Researchers John Merrifield and Joseph Bast estimate that Taxpayer Savings Grants would save Texas more than \$2 billion over the next two years. Their findings are contained in the recent report, "Budget Impact of the Texas Taxpayers' Savings Grant Program," published by The Heartland Institute and the E. G. West Institute for Effective Schooling.

Taxpayer Savings Grants would provide educational services to the same number of students at a significant savings to taxpayers. In fact, it would provide preferred educational services to Texas students. Those preferring to go to public schools would be free to do so. Likewise, eligible parents preferring alternative educational services would have that choice as well. State taxpayers save money and parents gain a choice. It's a win-win.

In Texas, we spend an average of \$11,567 to educate each student. Schools spend roughly \$8,572 per student in operations expenses; the rest consists of debt service, textbooks, and other indirect expenses. Students with Taxpayer Savings Grants will only get 60 percent of the maintenance and operations cost and the other 40 percent of M&O (\$3,429) is a savings to the state.

Coalition Members:

Texas Public Policy Foundation
Americans for Prosperity, Texas
National Center for Policy Analysis

American Legislative
Exchange Council

Heritage Alliance

Liberty Institute

Southern Christian Leadership
Conference

Institute for Justice, Texas

The Justice Foundation

Texas Institute for Education Reform

Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America

Young Conservatives of Texas

Waco Tea Party

Galveston County Tea Party, Inc.

Clear Lake Tea Party

Rowlett Tea Party

Lake Fork Tea Party Patriots

Conservative Republicans of Texas

Texas Republican Freedom Coalition

JoAnn Fleming
Grassroots America-We the People

Dave Welch, Executive Director,
Houston Area Pastor Council

Brother Stanley Culotta, CSC, M.D.,
President of Holy Cross of San Antonio

Monsignor Dermott Brosnan,
Founder, Patrician Movement

Tim Lambert, Executive Director,
Texas Home School Coalition



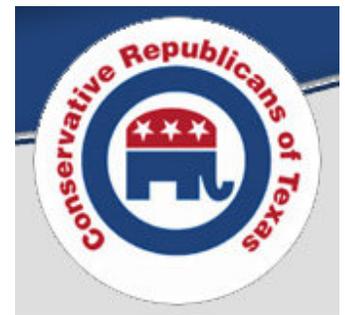
Additional money will also remain in the public school system. The difference between operating expenditures and total expenditures (\$11,567 - \$8,572) is about \$3,000 per student. That additional \$3,000 remains in the Texas public school system, thereby increasing per pupil funding for each student attending a Texas public school.



Also, research shows that Texas public school teachers will benefit from Taxpayer Savings Grants with better working conditions and higher pay. Schools would have to compete for the best teachers to attract students. An increase in the demand for good teachers will lead to higher compensation and more funding directed to the classroom instead of administration. As the number of school employers dramatically increases, teachers will be able to find the school that best fits their skill set and interests.



Please support HB 33 by Representative Sid Miller, Taxpayer Savings Grants. Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers will all benefit.



Sincerely,

Peggy Venable
Texas State Director
Americans for Prosperity

Andrew Erben
President and C.O.O.,
Texas Institute for Education
Reform

Brooke Rollins
President
Texas Public Policy Foundation



Allan E. Parker
President
The Justice Foundation

Matt Miller
Executive Director
Institute for Justice,
Texas Chapter

John C. Goodman
President and CEO
National Center for Policy
Analysis



Rev. Kyev Tatum
 Rev. Kyev Tatum
 President
 Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Tony McDonald
 Tony McDonald
 Senior Vice Chairman
 Young Conservatives of Texas

Howard Beigelman
 Howard Beigelman
 Deputy Director of Public Policy
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



Jonathan Saenz
 Jonathan Saenz
 Director of Legislative Affairs
 Liberty Institute

Tim Lambert
 Tim Lambert
 Executive Director
 Texas Home School Coalition

Steven F. Hotze, M.D.
 Steven F. Hotze, M.D.
 President
 Conservative Republicans of Texas



INFORMED • INVOLVED • ACTIVE

JoAnn Fleming
 JoAnn Fleming
 Executive Director
 Grassroots America – We the People

Rosemary Edwards
 Rosemary Edwards
 County Chairman
 Travis County Republican Party

Michael Gallops
 Michael Gallops
 President
 Texas Republican Assembly
 Rowlett City Councilmen



Timothy Bradberry
 Timothy Bradberry
 National Committeeman
 Texas Republican Assembly

Monsignor Dermott Brosnan
 Monsignor Dermott Brosnan,
 Founder, Patrician Movement

Bro Stanley Culotta, CSC
 Bro. Stanley Culotta, CSC, M.D.
 President
 Holy Cross of San Antonio

Toby Marie Walker
 Toby Marie Walker
 President
 Waco Tea Party

R. A. Ford
 Richard Ford
 President
 Heritage Alliance

Roberto F. Gonzalez
 Roberto F. Gonzalez
 Clear Lake Tea Party



Michael Kinzie
 Michael Kinzie
 Lake Fork Tea Party Patriots

Wes Riddle
 Wes Riddle
 State Director,
 Republican Freedom Coalition (RFC)

Rachel Delgado
 Rachel Delgado
 Chairman
 Galveston County Tea Party

