

TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS

"A Win-Win for Texas Students and Taxpayers"

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Study: Taxpayer Savings Grants Provide Teachers Higher Pay and Better Working Conditions

AUSTIN, Texas — May 18, 2011 — Texans for Voluntary Taxpayer Savings, Inc announced a new study today, demonstrating that Taxpayer Savings Grants will provide teachers higher pay and better working conditions. The Heartland Institute released the study titled, “How Teachers in Texas Would Benefit from Expanding School Choice.”

The study is authored by Joseph Bast, President of The Heartland Institute, Bruno Behrend, Director of the Center for School Reform at The Heartland Institute, and Herbert Walberg, a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. Walberg also serves on the Koret Task Force on K-12 Education.

Greater parental choice in education increases demand for good teachers, which in turn leads to higher compensation. In cities like Houston, where there are as many as 600 schools, Houston public school teachers could see their pay rise by as much as \$12,000. Teacher autonomy would increase dramatically as well, leading to better working conditions and greater job satisfaction. School choice leads to more funding following the child to the classroom and better parent-teacher relationships.

“Individual teachers stand to benefit from school choice as much as children. More schools will bid for their services, they will have more autonomy, and more money will be available for the classroom,” said Joseph Bast, President, The Heartland Institute.

“School choice changes the dynamic of the teaching profession. Rather than being employed by a district bureaucracy, they can choose from a much wider array of options. They could even get together and start their own schools,” explains Bruno Behrend, Director, Center for School Choice, The Heartland Institute.

This study demonstrates how Texas teachers will benefit if Taxpayer Savings Grants become law. Earlier this week, The Heartland Institute released “Budget Impact of the Texas Taxpayers’ Savings Grant Program” which finds that Texas taxpayers could save as much as \$2 billion in the first two years of this program.

Taxpayer Savings Grants are a voluntary statewide program that allows parents to choose to transfer their child from a public school to a private school, and use a Taxpayer Savings Grant to help pay the tuition.

For more information on Taxpayer Savings Grants and The Heartland Institute studies, visit:

www.TaxpayerSavingsGrants.org