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Superintendent of Schools
Douglas Killian, Ph.D.

1 Feb. 2011

On behalf of Hutto ISD, I would like to respectfully request that the committee consider addressing the following mandates:

- Relief from the Fitness Gram mandate. Currently Districts are required to do height and weights, plus five to six physical fitness tests in grades 3-12. No funds were provided to do this. Over 4000 student of our 5400 students must be seen in order to meet the requirement. 7 district nurses, approximately 12 PE teachers, and 5 PE aides, spend a week accomplishing the Heights/weights and the 5-6 fitness tests. Several more days are needed to make up for absent students. Data is compiled and then a district health coordinator and a technology staff member spend 2-3 days trying to complete the district submission. Approximately 30,000 in employee time is diverted to this endeavor.

The district data has to be reported via a data system that we had to purchase at a cost of \$1500. There has been no training, the districts have just had to fumble through the implementation. An additional \$1500 in equipment had to be purchased to do some of the testing.

Finally at the end of the year, we have to report this data to parents. We do so with a data sheet in the student's report card. Another 4000 sheets of paper are produced and a staff member must fold and stuff the sheets in the mailers. The cost to Hutto ISD a 5400 student district is around \$35,000. A district like Humble that is more than 6 times our size is probably closing in on a quarter of a million in implementation costs.

- Relief on the 5% energy reduction mandate. Districts have been under a mandate to impact our energy expenditures by 5% annual. In Hutto, a recently exploding fast growth district, most of our campuses are under 6 years old, we have renovated all our campuses and retrofitted them with energy efficient light, controls and HVAC equipment, we need other ways to cut cost. I would ask this committee to aid us in cutting our energy costs even more. Adding districts to Tex. Utilities Code Subch. H. Rates for governmental entities Sec. 36.351 could give districts an additional 20% reduction, just like colleges.

In Hutto we spend 1.5 million in electrical costs annually out of a 39.8 million dollar budget. That is 3.7% of our budget and the largest expenditure we have outside of personnel costs. That translates to a 300,000 dollar savings or almost 5 and ½ teachers. In Plano, where the district budget is more than 11 times Hutto's these savings could be well over 3.3 million.

- Districts are currently required to utilize a hearing officer for Mid-term Reduction in Force or Mid-term terminations. A termination process with a hearing officer, coupled with attorney fees, a transcription and so on can run as high as \$45,000. Additionally, the hearing officer is a lawyer that signs up to hear these cases, often times they have the "time" to do these cases and they are not school experienced lawyers. A much cheaper option would be for the district to have both of these hearings in front of the school board. We already utilize this process for non-renewals at the end of a term contract. The end of term RIFs and non-renewals are accomplished in front of the board of trustees.

One last consideration: districts are under tremendous regulations regarding integrated pest management standards and applications. We must certify and maintain certification on three staff members, one of which must have training to supervise. Even with all the training, we must contract out for internal application. There are standards for the levels of infestation ("allowable thresholds") and basically we must live with the lowest levels while others we must work up through types of interventions and applications. With we spend about \$100 per month per campus and buildings, at a rate of around \$12,000 annually plus another \$1000 to \$2000 in training and certification cost for a 5400 student district.

Thank you for your time and consideration with regard to this matter. If I can provide any additional information, I can be reached via the number above or at my email address:
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