



Office of the Superintendent

D. Scott Elliff
Superintendent of Schools

CORPUS CHRISTI INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 110 • 801 Leopard Street • Corpus Christi, Texas 78403-0110
Office: 361/695-7405 Fax: 361/886-9109
Website: www.ccisd.us

March 7, 2011

The Honorable Florence Shapiro
Chair
Senate Education Committee
440 Sam Houston Building
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee
440 Sam Houston Building
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: SB 3 and SB 443 relating to flexibility in public school districts

Dear Senators Shapiro and Patrick:

Although we hope you and your colleagues will do everything necessary to limit the reduction of public education funding, we believe changes in Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code are essential to allowing Corpus Christi ISD to address any significant reduction. Specifically, please consider modifying the law to:

- Allow explicitly for across-the-board salary reductions, furloughs, and other forms of reduction in compensation.
- Move the contract notice deadline from 45 days before the last day of instruction to at least 10 days after the last day of instruction.
- Change the independent hearing officer process to allow clearly our Board of Trustees to make final good cause termination decisions.
- Allow our Board of Trustees to hear employee appeals if a reduction in force becomes inevitable. With independent hearing officer hearings costing up to \$45,000, this change will prevent the necessity of additional layoffs to cover hearing expenses.

Every student a learner...Every learner a graduate...Every graduate a success!

In addition to modifications to Chapter 21, we urge you to consider altering class size restrictions at the elementary level to a district-wide average of at least 21 to 1. This change alone would save Corpus Christi ISD over \$3 million and would not impact our ability to meet accountability standards.

These changes to current law would provide options for all Texas school districts to address any funding reductions in a manner least harmful to our students. I appreciate your consideration. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



D. Scott Elliff
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Board of Trustees