

Dear (Representative or Senator Last Name)

Hello, my name is _____, and I live in CITY, STATE, ZIP. My child(ren) attend public schools in Spring Branch ISD - a Recapture district.

As my (representative / senator), I'm writing to you to voice my deep concern about the unsustainable situation the state's recapture formula has put my child's school district in. The school funding issue is the elephant in the room at the Capitol and needs to be addressed now before school districts go broke.

The state of Texas has a constitutional mandate to provide **free public education**, but it has not been a fair funding partner for quite some time. I am very aware that the State relies on my SBISD local tax dollars to help bankroll the State's General Fund. This practice is shortchanging over 5 million Texas public school students - including 35,000+ SBISD students.

This year, SBISD will send three times more funds to the state (\$66 million) than it will receive in state funding (\$17.5 million). Next year, SBISD is forecast to pay \$91 million in recapture. That's nearly 22 percent of locally generated revenue. As a parent -- and a taxpayer - I think this is unfair and unsustainable.

I am urging you to support any legislation that addresses these three issues:

1. Elimination of the homestead exemption penalty from the recapture formula.
2. Funding for full-day Pre-K programs & the inclusion of full-day Pre-K student enrollment when determining the amount of recapture local taxpayers must pay the state.
3. Reimbursement to school districts subject to recapture for their transportation costs.

Bills I am currently following and urge you to support - HB 21, HB 1324, HB 1326 and joint bills HB 1037 and SB 358.

As a voter and a constituent, I will be watching the results and hope to see your support.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
(Your name here)