
From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 8:03 AM
To:
Subject: SBS Update: Legislative Session Has Started

Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* Member:

Education issues are front & center this legislative session. As proposed bills begin the long process of becoming law (writing, filing, approval by committee, then voting in the House & Senate) Spring Branch Speaks is watching to see which ones our lawmakers consider. We expect activity on bills to accelerate in the next month.

Here is an update on the top education issues to date:

EDUCATION FUNDING: After the Legislature cut education funding by \$5.4 billion in 2011, many districts joined together to sue the State for insufficient funding. A recent judgment found in favor of the schools! However, the State will now appeal; lawmakers are not likely to address overall funding levels until the Texas Supreme Court rules on the appeal. This year, however, lawmakers will have to decide how to distribute the current level of funding, so we expect debate later this spring. *To read more about the ruling, [CLICK HERE](#).*

STATE ASSESSMENTS/STAAR TESTS: We want to thank Representative Jimmy Don Aycock, Chair of the House Education Committee, for leading the charge to modify the testing regime currently in place. Rep. Aycock recently filed a bill (HB 5) that includes decreasing the number of standardized tests required by the state. We are following the progress of this debate very closely, along with another grass-roots organization, TAMSA (Texas Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment). *To read more about HB 5: [CLICK HERE](#). To learn more about or join TAMSA's email list, [CLICK HERE](#).*

PRO EDUCATION RALLY ON FEBRUARY 23rd: If you are free on Saturday, February 23, show your support for education by attending the "Save Texas Schools March & Rally" in Austin. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the rally and bus transportation.

We will let you know when we need your help weighing in on issues and bills. As always, thank you for taking the time to support SBISD schools.

Sincerely,

Spring Branch Speaks



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Spring Branch Speaks

Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.

Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 34,000 students on 46 campuses, including 57% economically disadvantaged students and 33% limited-English-proficient (ESL) students.

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join, too:
www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com)

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