

do your homework...

Check out these websites and Google your own:

- <http://www.investintexaschools.org/schoolfunding/current.php>
- <http://www.classsizematters.org/>
- <http://www.aft.org/topics/classsize/>
- <http://www.austin-chamber.org/DoBusiness/TaxesAndIncentives/TxProperty.html>
- <http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/ed.toc.htm>
- <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/school.finance/index.html>
- <http://www.eanes.k12.tx.us/>

Try these...

“impact of class size”

“texas state funding of schools”

“rank of Texas state school funding”

“property tax calculation”

“ad valorem tax”

“STARR”

ideas of what to write...

- With growing enrollment and funding constraints, EISD is facing tough decisions about class size. Texas is considering legislation that will allow K-4 class sizes to exceed the current 1:22. Already, our 5th grade levels are bulging at the seams with ratios as high as 1:27. And in some cases, even if provisions existed to hire more teachers, classrooms are not available. Our schools need more money to keep class sizes small and to improve campuses to meet growing enrollments.
- Texas ranks 32nd among the states in spending per pupil. We must demand an adjustment to the Cost of Education Index to raise the wealth per pupil.
- Is there possibility for redistributing monies within the budget such that class size and quality of teachers (aka teacher compensation) are at the forefront of all financial considerations? Can technology and transportation allotments be evaluated and possibly redirected? Is there current spending on athletics and extra curricular courses that should be redirected during these times of economic hardship?
- As outlined in Feb '09 EANESide-Out newsletter by Jim Strickland, one step to explore for adequately funding public education is to increase the available number of pennies in the tax rate that are not recaptured beyond the current 4 cents.

So, please...

...write your letters TODAY!!