

October 17, 2018

Dear SBISD Taxpayers:

Enclosed please find your 2018 Spring Branch ISD tax bill. Unless you are a taxpayer age 65 or older for whom SBISD property taxes are frozen, your taxes **may be higher** than last year. This is true for most taxpayers, even though the SBISD tax rate has remained the same since 2010.



As in past years, we want to explain what happens to the additional taxes you pay as your property values increase. **It is important to know that not all of your additional taxes paid will remain in SBISD.**

This year, SBISD estimates that our taxpayers will write checks totaling an additional **\$17 million** in taxes. At the same time, the district anticipates a recapture (Robin Hood) payment of \$88 million this year, or nearly **21 percent of your locally generated tax revenue**. That means a taxpayer who owns a home valued at \$500,000 will pay \$1,098 in recapture to the state. Recapture dollars go into the state's public education fund, freeing up state dollars for spending elsewhere.

Effectively, the Legislature uses your tax dollars to reduce the amount it would otherwise contribute to public education from other sources. Conversely, while local taxpayers will pay \$330 million to SBISD this year, SBISD will receive only \$22 million in state funding.

Yes, you read that correctly – in essence, SBISD will send four times more funds to the state this year (\$88 million) than it will receive in state funding (\$22 million).

We feel it is misleading for local taxpayers to write checks to our local school district when the majority of **the funds attributable to value growth actually benefit the bottom line of the state's budget**. Next year, SBISD is forecast to pay **\$92 million in recapture**. That's nearly 27 percent of locally generated revenue, and it's unsustainable.

The 85th Legislature authorized a commission to study the state's public school finance system. The commission's reports have not included a specific request to address recapture.

SBISD believes that the Legislature must fix the public school finance system, which puts SBISD at a competitive disadvantage relative to surrounding districts. We need reform that reverses the increasing flow of local taxpayer dollars to the state budget.

Our SBISD taxpayers continue to have the third lowest tax burden of any school district in the area. SBISD is one of only nine area districts that offers the 20 percent Local Option Homestead Exemption.

Many of you will ask what you can do. Stay engaged during the upcoming legislative session and follow the information we post online at **www.springbranchisd.com**.

Thank you for your support. We will continue to keep you updated about this critical issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Muri".

Sincerely,
Scott R. Muri, Ed.D.



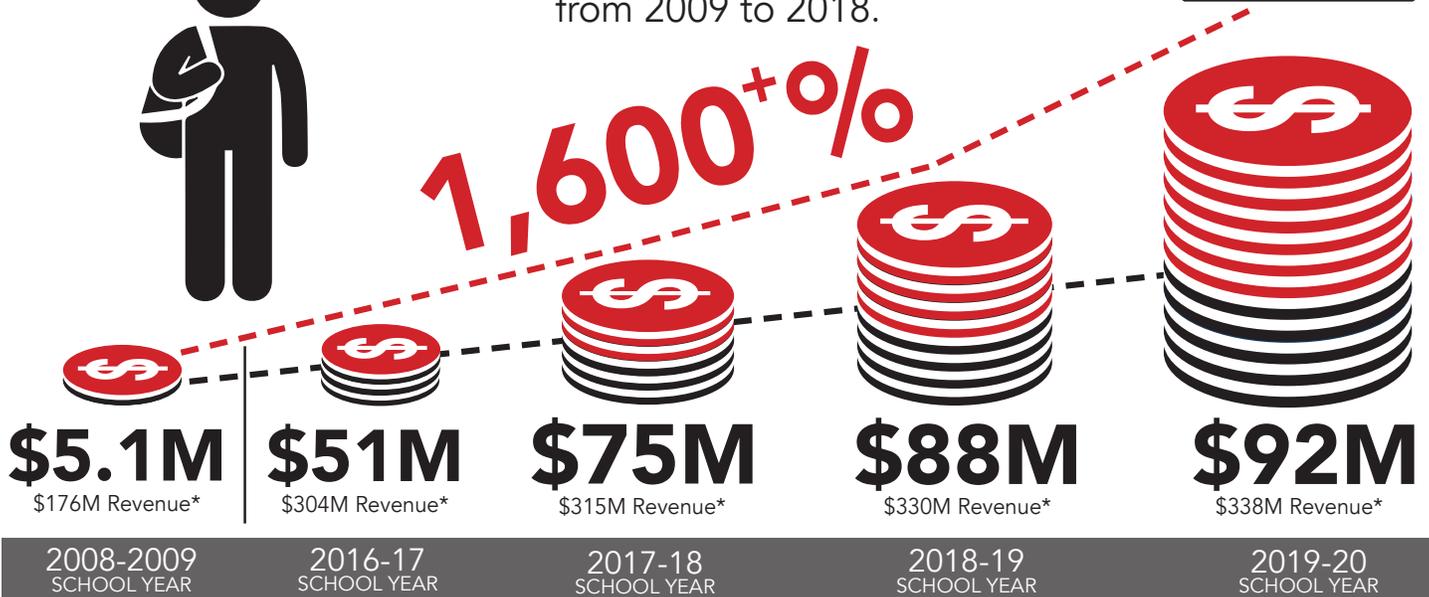
**Scan the QR Code
to watch a video
on school finance.**

ROBIN HOOD

is unsustainable.



Spring Branch ISD's 'Robin Hood' (RECAPTURE) payments have increased **1,600+%** from 2009 to 2018.



It's time to STOP funding the State's bottom line with Spring Branch tax dollars.

\$359M

Projected Amount Paid in RECAPTURE by SBISD (2009-2020)

Spring Branch ISD Taxpayers will send **four times** more funds to the State this year (\$88M) than SBISD will receive in State funding (\$22M).

How much per school does the State take?

\$5.2 M

Approx. per high school

\$2.2 M

Approx. per middle school

\$1.5 M

Approx. per elementary



How much per student does the State take?

\$2,535

Recapture Dollars per Student

Visit www.springbranchisd.com for more information on School Finance.