

Dear School District Community,

The 88th Texas Legislature reached the end of its regular session and has yet to produce any significant legislation to improve school funding. The Texas Legislature still needs to provide funds that address teacher pay raises, unfunded mandates, or any significant increase in funding for school safety. This inaction comes on the heels of rampant inflation, a crippling pandemic that negatively affected student academic achievement, increased student social needs, and teachers leaving the profession at an alarming rate. It should also be noted that a state task force was convened before this legislative session began to address teacher shortages, and its primary recommendation was to provide funds that trained teachers and find ways to keep them in the profession longer.

This legislative session, Texas lawmakers had a \$32.7 billion budget that should have allowed for property tax relief and better funding of our public schools. Instead, the Texas Legislature and the Governor have chosen to focus their political efforts on stalling adequate funding of Texas public schools and, ultimately, our Brazoria County schools, teachers, and staff.

If our state lawmakers continue to take no action on providing public school funding, the 2023/2024 school year budget will be very challenging for all public schools in our county and state. Nevertheless, we are committed to providing a quality education for all our students.

The Brazoria County Superintendents are asking for you to join us in requesting that our legislative representatives increase the basic allotment for schools so that we can maintain school safety and continue to provide our students with the services and support needed for success.

Our representatives can be reached at:

Governor Greg Abbott https://gov.texas.gov/contact

Senator Mayes Middleton 512-463-0111 <u>Mayes.Middleton@senate.tx.gov</u> Lt. Governor Dan Patrick (512) 463-5342 or (512) 463-0001 https://www.ltgov.texas.gov/contact/

Representative Ed Thompson 281-485-6565 Ed.Thompson@house.texas.gov

Representative Cody Vasut 979-848-1770 cody.vasut@house.texas.gov

Your Voice Matters!



Carol Nelson Superintendent



Phil Edwards

Superintendent



Danny Massey Superintendent



David Hayward Superintendent



Larry Berger Superintendent



Mike Homann Superintendent



Daniel Fuller Superintendent