



Dear Santa Fe students, staff, parents, and community,

The purpose of this letter is to provide our Santa Fe community with an update regarding the state of public school finances in Texas:

**Lack of Legislative Action:**

The 88th Texas Legislature reached the end of its regular session last year and failed to produce any significant legislation to improve school funding. Even after four additional Special Sessions over this past year – the Legislature still has yet to provide our public schools with funds to address teacher pay raises, rampant inflationary costs, support for school nutrition, updated transportation and operational costs, nor any significant support for sustaining school safety personnel.

Our lawmakers had a multi-billion-dollar budget that should have allowed for property tax relief AND better funding for our public schools. Instead, they have chosen to focus their efforts politically by stalling on the necessary funding of our Texas School Systems.

**Financial Impact on Santa Fe ISD:**

As a result, most school districts in Texas are facing multi-million-dollar shortfalls in revenue. Santa Fe ISD has utilized its fund balance (savings account) for the past couple of years to help “weather the storm” as we await needed increases in revenue. Over the past two years, SFISD has reduced its overall budget through the reduction of auxiliary staff, limited travel, minimal overtime, reduced professional development, and decreases in campus/athletic budgets. We have also eliminated five central office positions. However, our district is still in a place where we will have to absorb many positions throughout the district in order to help maintain a balanced budget.

**Necessary Steps for a Balanced Budget in SFISD:**

Our recent resignation incentive has allowed SFISD to absorb a large number of positions through attrition (resignations and retirements). We have asked some of our current employees to move into new positions in order to help absorb salary and limit any negative effects on student achievement. Rest assured, no one in our district has been “fired” or “cut” from employment. If certain positions need to be absorbed, we have offered those employees another role within the district. Our students’ success always remains at the forefront.

We are asking for your help as we seek to increase awareness surrounding these concerns with our public schools. Please join us in requesting that our legislators take action NOW and provide increased funding to support our Santa Fe students and public school systems. We are very fortunate and blessed to live in a great community, and we want to continue serving our students and stakeholders however possible. We will communicate more updates with everyone as the year progresses. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Bott, Ed.D.

Links to Contact our Texas Legislators  
[Representative Greg Bonnen](#)  
[Senator Mayes Middleton](#)