



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Jon E. Rosenthal
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Representative Rosenthal:

As you surely recall, I worked with Representative Brad Buckley during Special Sessions #3 and #4 last year to design a school choice and public school funding package that would have achieved exactly what you seek. It was a bill that added \$6 billion in school funding, including teacher pay raises and additional funding for school safety. All of the representatives who signed this letter voted to kill that package. The makeup of the Texas House of Representatives has not changed since you rejected that proposal, which means there is no possibility for it to pass during another special session unless you are willing to change your position to support the Buckley bill.

I do believe, however, that with the changes taking place in the Texas House, we will have an opportunity to reconsider this legislation in the next regular session.

To be clear, there are several reasons why some public schools are facing budget shortfalls. One is that public schools received extraordinary funding from the federal government for COVID recovery, and that federal funding is no longer available. This means schools that used this funding for ongoing expenses are facing a shortfall. In school districts across the state, schools have identified that another reason they have less revenue is that they have fewer students enrolled in classes: many parents across the state with whom I have visited complain about their growing dissatisfaction with the ideological leanings of education delivered by some public schools. Also, to be clear, you make reference to the basic allotment. That is simply misleading. While the basic allotment is \$6,160, the average funding per student actually exceeds \$12,000.

Know this, my commitment to improving public schools is just as resolute as yours. To achieve our shared goal, however, it is incumbent upon you to work with your fellow House members to muster the votes in the Texas House to get it passed—something you were unwilling to do last year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

The Honorable Jon E. Rosenthal

May 13, 2024

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GA:elm

cc: Representative Trey Martinez Fischer
Representative Vikki Goodwin
Representative Ray Lopez
Representative Mihaela Plesa
Representative James Talarico
Representative Gene Wu
Representative Christina Morales
Representative Donna Howard
Representative Ron Reynolds
Representative Diego Bernal
Representative Jessica González
Representative Christian Manuel
Representative Alma Allen, Ed.D.
Representative Senfronia Thompson
Representative Gina Hinojosa
Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers
Representative Rafael Anchía
Representative Jolanda Jones
Representative Venton Jones
Representative Penny Morales Shaw
Representative Ann Johnson
Representative Ana-Maria Ramos
Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.
Representative Salman Bhojani
Representative Elizabeth Campos
Representative Armando Martinez
Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.
Representative Armando Walle
Representative Hubert Vo
Representative Terry Meza
Representative Lulu Flores
Representative Nicole Collier
Representative Julie Johnson
Representative John Bryant
Representative Claudia Ordaz
Representative Chris Turner
Representative Evelina Ortega
Representative Carl O. Sherman