

Superintendent's Corner

Texas Public Schools has been under financed by the state for some time now and there were high hopes that this year's legislative session would tackle this problem and provide some relief to Texas schools and taxpayers. But as most of you know, this problem was not solved, in fact it was made worse by cutting educational funding by 4 billion dollars! As a result of this "lack of action" many school districts have banded together and decided to sue the state. One such group is called the "Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition." This organization is comprised of approximately 200 school districts (and is growing each day) and the basis of their suit is that the state of Texas does not provide access to sufficient funding to provide a constitutionally adequate education. They want equality for all schools! Another group that is gaining strength each day is the "Texas School Coalition." This group is comprised of a 120 member panel and their main premise is that districts lack meaningful discretion to set their local property tax rates, resulting in a de facto state property tax, which is prohibited by the Texas Constitution. This coalition will not pursue "efficiency" or "equity claims" but local control. As of yet, Mount Vernon ISD is not part of either of these coalitions, but I feel strongly that we can support either one of these efforts. The only way we can change the inadequacy in school financing is to band together as one and put pressure on our legislators to objectively look at our current system and make the necessary changes. Texas wants to be a leader in educating our children, don't you?