



EQUITY CENTER

*Advocating for the Fair Treatment of
Texas Taxpayers & Children*

TALKING POINTS: Removing the Punitive Small Schools Formula

Background:

Over 30 years ago, the state adopted two formulas to recognize the additional cost to educate children in a small school district. These additional costs (such as the cost to hire and retain quality teachers, added costs for small class sizes and _____) were determined to be significant enough that the state established a cost-based multiplier of .0004 for small school districts in Texas. Small schools were defined in statute as those with 1600 or fewer students.

For purely political reasons, a second formula was put into statute that penalized small school districts of less than 300 square miles by lessening their multiplier (.00025). There was no basis for establishing this second, punitive formula or funding these certain small districts at a lower level.

The most efficient solution to this decades-old inequity is to simply remove the punitive small schools formula and fund all small schools at the same state-recognized, cost-based level (.0004).

Purpose:

This bill simply repeals the punitive small schools formula and uses the same state-recognized, cost-based multiplier established 30 years ago (.0004) for all small school districts regardless of whether they happen to be greater or less than 300 square miles.

Possible Questions:

Q: How much will this change cost?

A: Approximately \$240 million per year for traditional public schools

Q: Wasn't the original purpose to try to force consolidation of small schools for savings?

A: Though that may have been the intent, it does not make sense to continue to punish certain small schools in Texas while also creating new small schools each year by approving and adding charter schools.

Q: What does this mean for your district?

A: If this bill passes our district would gain \$_____.