

*(Please cut and paste the following text into an email window to share with your contacts.)*

Hello Friends,

I'm sure you've heard about the Texas state budget crisis, and how it is threatening to affect public education funding both statewide and right in your hometown. In communities across Texas, the headlines repeat: campus closures, teacher layoffs, deep cuts to core academic programs. The outlook is grim.

In the face of these dismal circumstances, there is help for our Texas students - IF our state leaders have the courage to use it. **You and I can help convince them.**

Save Texas Schools - a nonpartisan volunteer coalition of parents, students, educators, business leaders, concerned citizens, community groups and faith organizations - is organizing **a massive, statewide rally for public education at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on Saturday, March 12**.

The goal of the rally is to send the message - loud and clear - that Texans will not allow the legislature to balance the budget at the expense of public education, that public education needs to be a priority (not an after-thought), and that the only thing more expensive than education is ignorance. Texas is already among the lowest states in education spending - we simply cannot afford to cut that spending even more. Despite the current budget woes, our state’s elected officials MUST work to maintain funding to the maximum degree for Texas Public Schools.

I am hoping you feel similarly and will join the effort with me. Here’s what you can do:

**Most importantly, plan to attend the Save Texas Schools rally in Austin on March 12.**

To find out more details on the rally and to read more about what is at stake, visit the Save Texas Schools website at [www.SaveTXSchools.org](http://www.savetxschools.org/" \t "_blank).

**Next, please help support the rally by taking the following easy steps:**

1) Forward this email to your Texas friends and contacts (and include these steps).

2) [Sign up for the Save Texas Schools Email Newsletter](http://websydaisy.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1784d1e7f52b75c02e64c0e18&id=713807f6bd" \t "_blank) to receive rally updates as details develop.

3) [Sign the Save Texas Schools Pledge](http://savetxschools.org/join-us/" \t "_blank) supporting public education funding in Texas, then forward the pledge to all of your email contacts and encourage them to sign it.

4) [Donate to the Save Texas Schools effort](http://savetxschools.org/donate-now/" \t "_blank) (via Paypal). Putting on the rally is costing tens of thousands of dollars. STS volunteers just hope to break even. Give what you can. Every donation will help.

5) “Like” the [Save Texas Schools Community page on Facebook,](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Texas-Schools/121711224567387?ref=ts" \t "_blank) then “Suggest This Page” to all your Facebook friends to help spread the word.

6) [RSVP for the March 12 Rally on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=181240711911593&ref=ts" \t "_blank), then “Invite” all your Facebook friends to RSVP.

7) Most importantly, talk about the rally to everyone you know and encounter - your friends, neighbors, colleagues, co-workers, fellow community group members, members of your faith community and more. Word-of-mouth is the most powerful communication of all.

And if you'd like to take your Save Texas Schools support even further, visit the [What You Can Do page](http://savetxschools.org/what-you-can-do/" \t "_blank) on their website. There you can print flyers to post on community boards around town, print information sheets to hand out to people, write letters to our state leaders, volunteer to help the planning committee, volunteer to help on rally day, and much more.

**Together we can make a difference!** Thanks for your time.