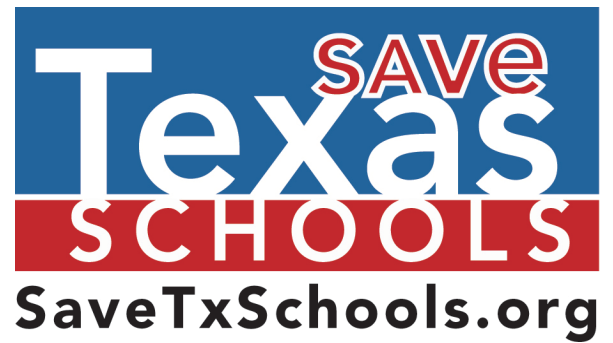


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, 2-9-2011



## **Thousands Expected at Massive Statewide Rally to Save Texas Schools**

### **When and Where:**

Saturday, March 12, Noon-2pm

Texas Capitol on the South Steps, 11th & Congress, Austin

Under threat of campus closures, teacher layoffs and program cutbacks, community leaders from across the state are organizing a massive rally at the state capitol building in Austin on March 12th from noon to 2 pm.

"Texas students have never faced a crisis like this, but there is help if our leaders have the courage to use it," says Allen Weeks of Save Texas Schools, the grassroots coalition organizing the rally, and director of Austin Voices for Education and Youth. This year, the Texas legislature is considering proposals to reduce public education funding by billions of dollars statewide.

"On March 12, we plan to send a unified message to our legislators and our governor that it's time to do everything possible to save Texas schools and the children they serve," says Weeks.

Schools and students in districts including Austin, Dallas, Denton, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio, among others, are bearing the brunt of state budget shortfalls, but every district is affected. At the March 12 rally, students, educators, parents, and business and community leaders from across Texas will urge state leaders to make public education a top priority by:

- \* Using the \$9.3 billion Texas "Rainy Day" Fund to help rescue schools from the current crisis.
- \* Signing the paperwork for \$830 million in federal aid for teachers.
- \* Fixing school funding laws to be fair to all districts and our growing student population.

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**For more information:** Go to [www.savetxschools.org](http://www.savetxschools.org) for background information on key issues, rally logistics and how to get involved.

**Save Texas Schools** is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer coalition of Texas parents, educators, students, business owners, faith organizations and community leaders. Our goal is to educate our state's elected officials about the importance of maintaining funding for Texas public schools to the maximum degree possible, within the context of the current state budget crisis and beyond.