

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 8, 2011



Thousands Expected at Saturday Statewide March/Rally to Save Texas Schools

When and Where: Austin, Saturday, March 12, 2011 from 11-2

-March begins at 11 am, starting from 12th & Trinity (1 block east of Capital grounds)

-Rally is from noon-2pm, Texas Capitol on the South Steps, 11th & Congress

As school districts across the state reel from news of massive cuts to public education, as many as 10,000 parents, teachers, educators and community leaders from over 300 independent school districts are expected to descend on the state capital in Austin on Saturday, March 12.

"From all corners of the state, Texans are traveling to Austin on March 12 to send a loud, unified message to our elected officials: Keep Texas smart by funding public education," says Allen Weeks of Save Texas Schools, the grassroots coalition organizing the rally, and director of Austin Voices for Education and Youth.

Rally participants will urge legislators to take three critical steps to help close budget gaps:

- * 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.

A number of prominent, inspiring speakers and student groups will address the crowds on March 12, including:

- Julian Castro, Mayor of San Antonio
- John Kuhn, Supt. of Perrin-Whitt ISD in North Texas.
- Dalton Sherman, a sixth grader from Dallas, whose inspirational speeches on education have been featured nationally.
- Bill Hammond, CEO of the Texas Association of Business.

- The Cipher, a student-led Hip Hop group focused on building positive youth.
- Clifton J. Ozen Magnet School Choir from Beaumont, Texas.
- Reagan High School All-Star Band from Austin, Texas leading the STS March.
- More speakers are still being confirmed.

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For more information: Go to www.savetxschools.org for background information on key issues and rally logistics.

Media Parking:

Live trucks can park on 11th Street directly in front of the Capitol building. There is no reserved parking for members of the media. Please find information on directions and parking on the Save Texas Schools website: <http://savetxschools.org/faq/>

Mult box:

Mult box jacks will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wifi:

Free WI-FI is available at the Capitol.

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.