



ORIGINAL

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

ANN W. RICHARDS
GOVERNOR

September 10, 1992

A large rectangular area of the document has been redacted with heavy black ink, obscuring the recipient's address.

Dear :

Thank you for your letter regarding school finance. I appreciate your concerns.

We have a pressing need in Texas to find a concrete solution to the question of financing our public education system.

As you may know, on January 30, 1992 the Texas Supreme Court ruled SB 351 unconstitutional, saying that the "County Education Districts" (CEDs) do not have the power to collect property taxes. The Court has given the state of Texas two years to design a new system for funding public education. According to the ruling of the Court, the CEDs will be able to collect taxes in the 1991 and 1992 tax years, thus allowing the districts to operate until a new plan can be devised. In this ruling, the court stated that the collection of the CED tax must continue in order to guarantee that the districts are able to provide a quality education for our students.

I am still considering the possibility of a special session to resolve the problem of public school financing, if the legislature is able to agree upon a compromise. I have made a proposal in my "Good School Plan" to resolve the funding problem, but I have not ruled out any possible solutions and my staff and I are working closely with interested parties to try to find a satisfactory resolution.

Your opinions are beneficial, and I appreciate your sharing them with me.

I appreciate your efforts toward an improved system of education in our state. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized cursive signature of Ann W. Richards.

ANN W. RICHARDS
Governor