



Bullard Independent School District

"A Quality Community of Learners"

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Keith Bryant, Superintendent

SB 982

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Bullard ISD is a growing East Texas school district just outside of Tyler that serves a student population of 1900 students and has a WADA of 2234. We are growing at a rate of 5-8% per year, & our high school enrollment alone increased by 20% this year. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

We are a Chapter 42 school district with a target revenue of \$4992, which is well below the state average. We have a tax rate of \$1.47 - \$1.04 for M&O & \$.43 for I&S. HB1 compressed our tax rate below \$1.00, and therefore we are at the maximum allowed in M&O without an election. The only way we can access additional funds is through a TRE which would be difficult to pass based on our I&S rate that has been necessitated by growth. Furthermore, we are a community of rooftops with very little industry, and voters are reluctant to pass more taxes when they will personally bear the burden without help from the commercial sector.

SB982 provides immediate help that is needed in our growing school district. The most costly need is in personnel. Additional staff is needed to comply with the 4x4 mandate and to keep up with our enrollment increase. Without additional funds, we will be faced with accessing our limited fund balance to continue to fund the academic demands of our community.

Under this bill, Bullard ISD would receive \$75/WADA the first year, \$200/WADA the second year, and gradually less of a continued increase in the out years as we become more equitable. I believe that the cost-based, formula-driven system works well, and this bill allows the money to flow through that system.

Also, as President-Elect of the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools, I would like to say that our organization supports this bill as it continues to recognize the economies of scale of mid-size schools. It also allows all Chapter 41 districts to receive the mid-size adjustment which rights the wrong that for years has prohibited them from benefitting from this adjustment.