



Bullard Independent School District

Excellence Through Education

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Keith Bryant, Superintendent

Senate Bill 504 Testimony - March 22, 2011

My name is Keith Bryant, and I am the superintendent of Bullard ISD. Our district, which is a bedroom community of Tyler, has approximately 2100 students enrolled and is growing at a rate of 5% a year. I am testifying in support of SB504 on behalf of Bullard ISD and the 205 member districts of the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools, of which I currently serve as President.

As each of you are well aware, school districts are facing unprecedented cuts during the next biennium. SB 504 which would benefit school districts tremendously without any cost to the state. Our school district is looking at each line item in the budget, and some of the largest uncontrollable costs in the budget are utility expenses. Even though we participate in an energy aggregation coop with Direct Energy that has enabled us to keep pricing of electricity per kwh low, our monthly cost is still very high. In 2007, we locked in our cost at \$.08807 per kwh, and this rate expires in 2012. We have already locked in a new contract for 2012 and 2013 at \$.0751 per kwh. Furthermore, we have automated energy management systems that have high and low set-points for all of our HVAC equipment, and we utilize programmable thermostats in the large areas such as gyms, auditoriums, and band halls. In other words, we are taking proactive steps to reduce the amount of electricity that we are using.

In order to demonstrate actual costs, the following is a breakdown of Bullard ISD's electricity bills over the past 12 months:

March 2010	43,708.08	September 2010	53,893.54	
April 2010	43,143.97	October 2010	65,646.50	
May 2010	41,353.44	November 2010	50,586.79	
June 2010	45,939.65	December 2010	46,369.07	
July 2010	51,469.02	January 2011	48,320.33	
August 2010	45,783.69	February 2011	46,807.25	Total \$582,964.33

As you can see, a 20% reduction would save BISS just under \$117,000 per year at current rates. This translates into two or three teaching positions that could be funded from these savings. Institutions of higher learning benefit from this savings, yet public school district currently do not. Furthermore, we have no ability to raise tuition or fees like they do if these costs rise.

When I served on the Comptroller's FAST Advisory Committee, she talked about fixed costs that were not categorized as such but nevertheless were uncontrollable costs that district had to bear. She noted electricity as an example of that cost. I would ask you to support SB504 so that school districts may receive the same benefits in regard to electricity that other educational institutions in Texas are afforded.