



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

316 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

Contact:

**Clay Robison, TSTA Public Affairs
512-476-5355, ext. 1233; clayr@tsta.org
Cell: 512-535-8994**

Remarks by Rita Haecker, president of the Texas State Teachers Association, at the Save Texas Schools rally.

Here we are again, at our State Capitol, where the Governor and a legislative majority, for the first time in at least 60 years, refused to provide the funds needed to educate all Texas students.

And what's worse, they even changed the law to say they don't have to pay to educate all our kids.

Now, we know that's wrong, but I want you to hear something Governor Rick Perry said in 2005, when a bipartisan coalition in the Texas House blocked his school finance plan – a plan a lot like his 2006 plan, which led to budget shortfalls and school budget cuts.

When the Governor vetoed the education budget in 2005, he said "I cannot let \$2 billion sit in some bank account when it can go directly to the classroom."

Well, Governor, last session you signed a budget that cut \$5.4 billion from our children's classrooms. Now there's \$7 billion, maybe \$9 billion, sitting in the bank in the Rainy Day Fund, and it's time to put it to work in the classroom.

It's time to stop the cuts, NOW!

Already 25,000 school employees – including almost 11,000 teachers – have lost their jobs. And more cuts will cost more jobs in the next school year.

The money's sitting in the bank.

It's time to stop the cuts, NOW!

This year, 8,400 students in kindergarten through the fourth grade are being forced to learn in crowded classrooms that exceed class size limits.

The money's sitting in the bank.



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

316 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701 • 877-ASK-TSTA • www.tsta.org • Fax 512-486-7049

Page 2

It's time to stop the cuts, NOW!

And when we think about the cuts, one child at a time, the state is now spending \$538 less for each child in our public schools than it was spending a year ago.

The money is sitting in the bank.

What time is it?

It's time to stop the cuts, NOW!

Thousands of parents, teachers, educational employees and taxpayers all over Texas have signed the Stop the Cuts petition – not because of money, but because we care about our kids, and it's time to save their schools.

When we leave here today, we have to take our cause back to our communities and to the ballot box. Together, we can stop the cuts and save our schools.

Now, it's my privilege to introduce a great teacher and TSTA member, who can tell us how these cuts are impacting our classrooms, Mr. Arturo Villanueva.

Mr. Villanueva is the 5th grade Math/Science coordinator at Mission Valley Elementary School in the Ysleta ISD in El Paso, TX. In 2008-2009, Mr. Villanueva was the Ysleta ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year and Region 19 Teacher of the Year.