



PLANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION

Public School Finance

The **Plano Chamber of Commerce**, representing more than 1,100 business members and community leaders, supports our local Independent School District (ISD) and encourages our members and other Plano citizens to urge our local Texas State Legislators to vote in favor of a revenue system that adequately funds public education.

Whereas, the members of the Board of Directors of the **Plano Chamber of Commerce** recognize that a vibrant and adequately funded public education system is critical to developing a well-educated and productive workforce and to the continuing expansion of the economy of North Texas and the State of Texas; and

Whereas, given the state's significant revenue shortfall, Texas public education is projected to lose between \$3 and \$9.8 billion dollars in support of local education efforts over the next biennium, which will mean significant losses in state funding for the Plano Independent School District; and

Whereas, current budget proposals in the Texas House and Senate could make for severe reductions in state funding for public schools that will require elimination of local jobs at all levels, including critical student services staff and teachers in the classroom; and

Whereas, in order to maintain our competitive workforce, academic standards and student achievement efforts should not be compromised to address these budget concerns;

Therefore, the members of the **Plano Chamber of Commerce** Board of Directors urge our Legislators to consider the following proposed legislative efforts in order to avoid any additional adverse impact on local education efforts and student achievements, to include:

- Using at least half of the remaining balance of the **Texas Economic Stabilization Fund** ("Rainy Day" Fund) to tackle the revenue shortfalls of the biennium budget in Texas.
- Limiting any final budget cuts in the North Texas region and in Plano, to no more than six (6%) percent of current state funding levels. Any further reduction may endanger the DFW region and the State of Texas' critical objectives for a strong public education system and a competitive workforce.
- Granting locally elected School Boards the immediate and permanent authority to accomplish key academic objectives by more efficient and effective management of its human resources, financial resources, and improved operational practices. Local school administrators should be given the authority to utilize any contemporary workforce management tools or best practices to achieve these objectives, including the ability to temporarily furlough employees, and, if necessary, reduce employee compensation and benefits.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 13th DAY OF April, 2011 BY THE PLANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Camille Ussery
Chairman of the Board

Jamee Jolly
President/CEO