

An Open Letter to Texas Legislative Leaders

As Governor Greg Abbott said in his recent inaugural address, “We will put our students on a pathway to having all third-graders reading on grade level by the time they finish the third grade.” Public school finance reform is the single most important priority to achieve in the upcoming legislative session. Our funding per student has not kept pace with the evolving needs of our student population, which reflect more students with higher needs than a decade ago. This is particularly evident in our national literacy rankings, with Texas ranking 46th in early reading achievement according to the National Assessment of Academic Progress. With Texas currently ranking 43rd in the U.S. in public education funding per student, we cannot underfund our needs and expect to create a workforce that ensures the statewide prosperity to which we’ve grown accustomed.

As such, we strongly urge the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker, along with all members of the Texas Legislature, to support the recent recommendations of the Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which were unanimously agreed upon by a bipartisan group of legislators, community members, and school district personnel. In particular, we urge them to adopt the \$780 million recommended per year for the third grade reading allotment as well as the \$400 million to reward districts which attain third grade reading targets, particularly for low-income students.

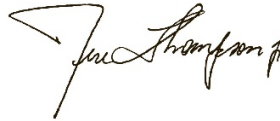
Unless we achieve these goals, the quality of our workforce will be insufficient to support the robust growth we’ve come to expect. The people of Texas deserve better! Thank you in advance for your strong leadership.



Roger Staubach
Chairman & CEO,
15 Partners



Joe DePinto
President & CEO,
7-Eleven, Inc.



Jere W. Thompson, Jr.
CEO,
Ambit Energy



Doug Parker
Chairman & CEO,
American Airlines



Cynthia Comparin
CEO,
Animato



Randall Stephenson,
Chairman & CEO,
AT&T, Inc.



David B. Walls
President & CEO,
Austin Industries



Norm Bagwell
CEO,
Bank of Texas

Jody Grant
Chairman & Partner,
BankCap Partners
Chairman Emeritus,
Texas Capital Bancshares, Inc.

Key Coker
Dallas CEO,
BBVA Compass

Matt Rose
Executive Chairman,
BNSF

Wyman Roberts
CEO & President,
Brinker International
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David Michel
President & CEO,
Catapult Health

Mark Rohr
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David Seaton
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John Goff
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Chairman,
Rogers-O'Brien Construction

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Chairman of the Board & CEO,
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The Fine Line Group

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The Perot Companies & Hillwood

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Chairman of the Board,
The Rosewood Corporation

Timothy R. Wallace
Chairman, CEO & President,
Trinity Industries, Inc.

Bob Rowling
CEO,
TRT Holdings

Paul Andrews
CEO,
TTI, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Becker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Becker
CEO,
Tuesday Morning

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Scovell', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Scovell
Chairman,
Woodbine Development Corp.