



February 5, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The journey toward an equitable state funding system took a positive turn on Monday when a Texas judge ruled the current system unconstitutional.

District Judge John Dietz ruled in favor of the more than 600 Texas school districts – including Cypress-Fairbanks ISD – that filed a lawsuit against the state last year.

In a statement regarding the ruling, Judge Dietz echoed many of the same comments he made while ruling the state funding system unconstitutional in 2005. He also voiced the same confusion for school finance that I, and countless other educators, have felt for many years:

“I have to say, there are 26 million Texans, and I doubt there are 26 people in this state who understand this system,” he said.

Judge Dietz also declared that “there has never been a more expeditious trial of a school finance case anywhere in the United States,” cementing my belief that this was the only logical decision to be made during this 44-day trial.

I applaud Judge Dietz, the four plaintiff teams that defended the school districts’ case and the dozens of superintendents and school funding authorities who provided critical testimony in reaching this key decision.

The final, written order in the case is expected to be delivered in early March, at which point the state has pledged to appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court.

Although there will be more obstacles before an agreeable solution is reached, we look forward to working with legislators and other state leaders as we plot the path toward equitable school finance.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.