



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Teachers and all GCCISD Stakeholders:

Even though it is a new year, we all know that in public education we are in the second phase of our instructional year. We relish in the challenge of this spring semester and at the same time, are anxious about the challenges in public education in the state of Texas.

With a state budget shortfall north of \$20 billion, public school districts are bracing for the worst.

Like virtually every school district across the state, Goose Creek CISD has been working hard formulating strategies that will allow us to continue providing the same level of education with less money.

I commend the efforts of all who have been working diligently to ensure a more efficient school district.



Dr. Toby York
Supertintendent

At this point, we are looking at all potential cost-cutting options, with an overall goal of protecting classroom funding.

It is not going to be easy.

Educators at all levels are under constant pressure to improve academic achievement. That pressure has increased tremendously in a highly competitive global economy with no room for anything less than a high school diploma.

Many school districts have already cut staffs and are looking at partnering with other nearby school districts and consolidating some of their operations to further cut costs. It is our goal not to cut staff. However, through attrition, positions may be eliminated.

Proposals to increase class size in the lower grades to cut down on the number of classroom teachers needed have already generated much discussion at the state level.

Texas already ranks 38th among the states in per-pupil expenditures on instruction. We cannot afford to drop any lower.

The state's school finance woes are not new.

They just have not been dealt with adequately or in a timely manner in the past, and the current economic crisis is only aggravating the festering problems.



HELP US BE HEARD

Our parents and community have a long history of extraordinary support to the schools, but we need your help more than ever before.

It is urgent that we all educate ourselves about the plight of Texas school districts.

Legislators listen to voters. Be an advocate for schools in Goose Creek CISD and keep up with the Texas Legislature!

See list of lawmakers [here](#).



➔ The Big Picture on Paying for Our Schools

The 2006 school finance overhaul has been a failure that would have led to a budget shortfall even without today's declining revenues.

Clearly, the actions of the Legislature will have a profound impact on the education of our students. We will continue to monitor progress on the State appropriations bill throughout the spring to determine its probable impact on Goose Creek CISD.

What can you do? I encourage you to pay attention to what is happening in Austin during the legislative session. [LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES and RECENT NEWS](#)

Communicate your expectations and desires to our elected officials and to my office.

In the meantime, we at Goose Creek CISD must stay focused on the reason we're here: To continue to provide our students with a quality education that's second to none.

I am proud of our staff and the opportunity to be a part of "Team Goose Creek."

Let's continue this spring to be one of the finest districts in Texas.

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