

Public Testimony on Senate Bill No. 962
by the
Fast Growth School Coalition
Senate Education Committee

March 22, 2005

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Hinojosa and I am the Superintendent of the Spring Independent School District, which is located in Harris County. I appear before you today as Chair of the Fast Growth School Coalition, which represents 110 school districts that account for nearly all of the enrollment growth in Texas public schools today.

I want to begin by thanking Senator Shapiro for her leadership role and the other members of the Committee for their long and continued support for fast-growing school districts. The two state aid programs for public school facilities—the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA)—provide substantial property tax relief for the taxpayers of growing school districts and are critical to our ability to meet the needs of the growing school-age populations in our communities. The New Instructional Facilities Allotment (NIFA) provides assistance for the operating costs associated with opening new campuses, also a very important program for our districts.

I have registered “on” Senate Bill 962 because the bill raises a number of issues that we feel need more clarification before our members can take a position on the bill. One point missing in the description included in the bill analysis accompanying SB 962 that I think is important to bring out is that in order for a district to qualify for state support under EDA or IFA, the district must first convince local voters that its needs merit their approval of a bond issue for the construction of new schools and renovations

of existing campuses. (Lease-purchase agreements are permitted under IFA but used only by a small handful of districts.) This is not insignificant because the taxpayers in fast-growth districts already endure substantial tax burdens for school construction, even with state assistance.

I have included a table that lists the 110 fast-growth districts, sorted by their debt service tax rates for the 2004-05 school year, running from highest to lowest. On the first page, the debt service tax rates for these districts range from approximately 29 cents up to 50 cents. Despite the perception that some school districts are building extravagant facilities, when you face debt taxes at these levels on top of \$1.50 M&O taxes in most cases, you pursue every option available to control building costs. As one illustration, you have had previous testimony here and before the Joint Select Committee that indicated it is common for school districts to use a standard design for many of their campuses. For example, Arlington ISD testified at one point that they had used the same design for the construction of its last 15 elementary schools. These practices are commonplace among fast-growing districts. We are simply unable to convince our voters to support additional bond issues if they feel we are not prudent with their money.

With regard to the sustainable building design standards referenced in the bill, we would advise caution on making these mandatory. I have spoken with both the past and current superintendents of McKinney ISD, where four campuses have been built using these design standards. Their experience is that each of these campuses cost an additional \$1.5 million to construct and they felt there were no immediate benefits in terms of reduced operating expenses. We are also concerned that the regional indexes cited in the

bill need more detailed study before they become the yardsticks by which campus construction costs are measured.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I want you to know that the members of the Fast Growth School Coalition appreciate your past support and look forward to working with you as the Committee moves forward in its consideration of school facilities funding.

Fast Growth School Districts Sorted by 2004 I&S Tax Rate

| District Number | District Name | County Name | Enrollment 1998-99 | Enrollment 2003-04 | Difference 1998-99 & 2003-04 | 2003-04 5-Year % Growth | 2004 M&O Tax Rate | 2004 I&S Tax Rate | 2004 Total Tax Rate |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 043907 | MCKINNEY ISD | COLLIN COUNTY | 9,831 | 16,663 | 6,832 | 69.5% | \$1.5000 | \$0.5000 | \$2.0000 |
| 220919 | CARROLL ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 5,892 | 7,304 | 1,412 | 24.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.4350 | \$1.9350 |
| 043901 | ALLEN ISD | COLLIN COUNTY | 9,441 | 13,864 | 4,423 | 46.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.4333 | \$1.9333 |
| 057913 | LANCASTER ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 4,250 | 4,754 | 504 | 11.9% | \$1.4616 | \$0.3929 | \$1.8545 |
| 199901 | ROCKWALL ISD | ROCKWALL COUNTY | 7,363 | 10,096 | 2,733 | 37.1% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3800 | \$1.8800 |
| 101919 | SPRING ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 21,899 | 26,768 | 4,869 | 22.2% | \$1.4900 | \$0.3800 | \$1.8700 |
| 199902 | ROYSE CITY ISD | ROCKWALL COUNTY | 1,830 | 2,694 | 864 | 47.2% | \$1.3706 | \$0.3785 | \$1.7491 |
| 101914 | KATY ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 30,371 | 42,116 | 11,745 | 38.7% | \$1.6300 | \$0.3700 | \$2.0000 |
| 246909 | ROUND ROCK ISD | WILLIAMSON COUNTY | 28,507 | 35,553 | 7,046 | 24.7% | \$1.4920 | \$0.3652 | \$1.8572 |
| 061901 | DENTON ISD | DENTON COUNTY | 12,975 | 15,951 | 2,976 | 22.9% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3640 | \$1.8640 |
| 105906 | HAYS CONS ISD | HAYS COUNTY | 6,311 | 9,052 | 2,741 | 43.4% | \$1.4332 | \$0.3613 | \$1.7945 |
| 101925 | HUFFMAN ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 2,421 | 2,869 | 448 | 18.5% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3500 | \$1.8500 |
| 061914 | LITTLE ELM ISD | DENTON COUNTY | 1,497 | 3,484 | 1,987 | 132.7% | \$1.4700 | \$0.3500 | \$1.8200 |
| 220908 | MANSFIELD ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 12,408 | 21,060 | 8,652 | 69.7% | \$1.3770 | \$0.3400 | \$1.7170 |
| 227904 | PFLUGERVILLE ISD | TRAVIS COUNTY | 12,601 | 16,592 | 3,991 | 31.7% | \$1.4900 | \$0.3400 | \$1.8300 |
| 057912 | IRVING ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 27,687 | 31,249 | 3,562 | 12.9% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3370 | \$1.8370 |
| 220918 | EAGLE MT-SAGINAW ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 5,865 | 8,517 | 2,652 | 45.2% | \$1.3175 | \$0.3325 | \$1.6500 |
| 246913 | LEANDER ISD | WILLIAMSON COUNTY | 11,860 | 18,201 | 6,341 | 53.5% | \$1.4610 | \$0.3290 | \$1.7900 |
| 227907 | MANOR ISD | TRAVIS COUNTY | 2,376 | 3,227 | 851 | 35.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3262 | \$1.8262 |
| 046902 | COMAL ISD | COMAL COUNTY | 10,202 | 11,989 | 1,787 | 17.5% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3200 | \$1.8200 |
| 011902 | ELGIN ISD | BASTROP COUNTY | 2,641 | 3,084 | 443 | 16.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3200 | \$1.8200 |
| 061911 | NORTHWEST ISD | DENTON COUNTY | 4,931 | 6,917 | 1,986 | 40.3% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3193 | \$1.8193 |
| 227910 | DEL VALLE ISD | TRAVIS COUNTY | 5,629 | 7,656 | 2,027 | 36.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3063 | \$1.8063 |
| 220914 | KENNEDALE ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 2,520 | 2,938 | 418 | 16.6% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3043 | \$1.8043 |
| 227913 | LAKE TRAVIS ISD | TRAVIS COUNTY | 3,515 | 4,818 | 1,303 | 37.1% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3025 | \$1.8025 |
| 146901 | CLEVELAND ISD | LIBERTY COUNTY | 2,869 | 3,329 | 460 | 16.0% | \$1.4000 | \$0.3000 | \$1.7000 |
| 043914 | WYLIE ISD | COLLIN COUNTY | 3,991 | 6,661 | 2,670 | 66.9% | \$1.5000 | \$0.3000 | \$1.8000 |
| 027903 | BURNET CONS ISD | BURNET COUNTY | 2,724 | 3,083 | 359 | 13.2% | \$1.4550 | \$0.2950 | \$1.7500 |
| 061912 | LAKE DALLAS ISD | DENTON COUNTY | 2,860 | 3,578 | 718 | 25.1% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2950 | \$1.7950 |
| 015910 | NORTH EAST ISD | BEXAR COUNTY | 47,951 | 56,298 | 8,347 | 17.4% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2940 | \$1.7940 |
| 020908 | PEARLAND ISD | BRAZORIA COUNTY | 9,791 | 13,096 | 3,305 | 33.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2922 | \$1.7922 |
| 101907 | CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 58,186 | 74,877 | 16,691 | 28.7% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2900 | \$1.7900 |
| 170908 | NEW CANEY ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 6,002 | 7,282 | 1,280 | 21.3% | \$1.4800 | \$0.2900 | \$1.7700 |
| 036902 | BARBERS HILL ISD | CHAMBERS COUNTY | 2,523 | 3,020 | 497 | 19.7% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2899 | \$1.7899 |
| 057910 | GRAND PRAIRIE ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 19,217 | 22,132 | 2,915 | 15.2% | \$1.4625 | \$0.2886 | \$1.7511 |

Fast Growth School Districts Sorted by 2004 I&S Tax Rate

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|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 057903 | CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRA | DALLAS COUNTY | 22,421 | 25,638 | 3,217 | 14.3% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2824 | \$1.7824 |
| 043905 | FRISCO ISD | COLLIN COUNTY | 4,477 | 13,411 | 8,934 | 199.6% | \$1.2775 | \$0.2800 | \$1.5575 |
| 237904 | WALLER ISD | WALLER COUNTY | 3,917 | 4,830 | 913 | 23.3% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2800 | \$1.7800 |
| 249905 | DECATUR ISD | WISE COUNTY | 2,436 | 2,846 | 410 | 16.8% | \$1.4613 | \$0.2767 | \$1.7380 |
| 015916 | JUDSON ISD | BEXAR COUNTY | 15,913 | 17,981 | 2,068 | 13.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2760 | \$1.7760 |
| 170904 | WILLIS ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 4,253 | 4,741 | 488 | 11.5% | \$1.4600 | \$0.2750 | \$1.7350 |
| 126901 | ALVARADO ISD | JOHNSON COUNTY | 3,007 | 3,437 | 430 | 14.3% | \$1.4500 | \$0.2700 | \$1.7200 |
| 021901 | COLLEGE STATION ISD | BRAZOS COUNTY | 7,210 | 7,931 | 721 | 10.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2700 | \$1.7700 |
| 061902 | LEWISVILLE ISD | DENTON COUNTY | 35,031 | 44,024 | 8,993 | 25.7% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2700 | \$1.7700 |
| 071909 | SOCORRO ISD | EL PASO COUNTY | 23,610 | 32,241 | 8,631 | 36.6% | \$1.3684 | \$0.2693 | \$1.6377 |
| 220912 | CROWLEY ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 8,264 | 11,819 | 3,555 | 43.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2680 | \$1.7680 |
| 146902 | DAYTON ISD | LIBERTY COUNTY | 4,581 | 5,116 | 535 | 11.7% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2658 | \$1.7658 |
| 070908 | MIDLOTHIAN ISD | ELLIS COUNTY | 4,068 | 5,396 | 1,328 | 32.6% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2645 | \$1.7645 |
| 220907 | KELLER ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 14,757 | 21,803 | 7,046 | 47.7% | \$1.4336 | \$0.2639 | \$1.6975 |
| 015915 | NORTHSIDE ISD | BEXAR COUNTY | 61,458 | 71,798 | 10,340 | 16.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2625 | \$1.7625 |
| 129902 | FORNEY ISD | KAUFMAN COUNTY | 2,399 | 3,805 | 1,406 | 58.6% | \$1.4100 | \$0.2600 | \$1.6700 |
| 101917 | PASADENA ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 41,298 | 46,142 | 4,844 | 11.7% | \$1.5150 | \$0.2600 | \$1.7750 |
| 220901 | ARLINGTON ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 55,780 | 62,454 | 6,674 | 12.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2550 | \$1.7550 |
| 246904 | GEORGETOWN ISD | WILLIAMSON COUNTY | 7,337 | 8,662 | 1,325 | 18.1% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2550 | \$1.7550 |
| 101921 | TOMBALL ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 6,711 | 8,415 | 1,704 | 25.4% | \$1.4800 | \$0.2500 | \$1.7300 |
| 126902 | BURLESON ISD | JOHNSON COUNTY | 6,158 | 7,279 | 1,121 | 18.2% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2484 | \$1.7484 |
| 101924 | SHELDON ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 4,086 | 4,539 | 453 | 11.1% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2460 | \$1.7460 |
| 084910 | CLEAR CREEK ISD | GALVESTON COUNTY | 28,227 | 32,810 | 4,583 | 16.2% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2450 | \$1.7450 |
| 011901 | BASTROP ISD | BASTROP COUNTY | 5,855 | 7,565 | 1,710 | 29.2% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2420 | \$1.7420 |
| 057904 | CEDAR HILL ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 6,172 | 7,564 | 1,392 | 22.6% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2413 | \$1.7413 |
| 057906 | DESOTO ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 6,580 | 7,651 | 1,071 | 16.3% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2400 | \$1.7400 |
| 101913 | HUMBLE ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 23,922 | 27,009 | 3,087 | 12.9% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2400 | \$1.7400 |
| 094902 | SCHERTZ-CIBOLO-U CITY ISD | GUADALUPE COUNTY | 5,948 | 7,257 | 1,309 | 22.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2400 | \$1.7400 |
| 126905 | JOSHUA ISD | JOHNSON COUNTY | 3,889 | 4,427 | 538 | 13.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2381 | \$1.7381 |
| 084901 | DICKINSON ISD | GALVESTON COUNTY | 5,924 | 6,539 | 615 | 10.4% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2380 | \$1.7380 |
| 057922 | COPPELL ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 8,456 | 10,003 | 1,547 | 18.3% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2350 | \$1.7350 |
| 043910 | PLANO ISD | COLLIN COUNTY | 44,414 | 51,869 | 7,455 | 16.8% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2334 | \$1.7334 |
| 170902 | CONROE ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 32,425 | 39,246 | 6,821 | 21.0% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2325 | \$1.7325 |
| 170906 | MAGNOLIA ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 6,111 | 9,135 | 3,024 | 49.5% | \$1.4500 | \$0.2300 | \$1.6800 |
| 170907 | SPLENDORA ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 2,740 | 3,135 | 395 | 14.4% | \$1.5000 | \$0.2300 | \$1.7300 |

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|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 184907 | ALEDO ISD | PARKER COUNTY | 2,825 | 3,495 | 670 | 23.7% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2203 | \$1,7203 |
| 101903 | ALIEF ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 41,116 | 45,344 | 4,228 | 10.3% | \$1,4700 | \$0,2200 | \$1,6900 |
| 129903 | KAUFMAN ISD | KAUFMAN COUNTY | 3,011 | 3,407 | 396 | 13.2% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2200 | \$1,7200 |
| 015917 | SOUTHSHORE ISD | BEXAR COUNTY | 4,028 | 4,676 | 648 | 16.1% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2200 | \$1,7200 |
| 101910 | GALENA PARK ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 18,169 | 20,454 | 2,285 | 12.6% | \$1,5800 | \$0,2150 | \$1,7950 |
| 057909 | GARLAND ISD | DALLAS COUNTY | 48,188 | 55,114 | 6,926 | 14.4% | \$1,4102 | \$0,2112 | \$1,6214 |
| 101905 | CHANNELVIEW ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 6,520 | 7,451 | 931 | 14.3% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2100 | \$1,7100 |
| 071901 | CLINT ISD | EL PASO COUNTY | 7,000 | 8,564 | 1,564 | 22.3% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2100 | \$1,7100 |
| 212903 | LINDALE ISD | SMITH COUNTY | 2,575 | 3,109 | 534 | 20.7% | \$1,4000 | \$0,2090 | \$1,6090 |
| 079907 | FORT BEND ISD | FORT BEND COUNTY | 51,074 | 61,248 | 10,174 | 19.9% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2075 | \$1,7075 |
| 101915 | KLEIN ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 31,774 | 35,558 | 3,784 | 11.9% | \$1,5000 | \$0,2000 | \$1,7000 |
| 079901 | LAMAR CONSOLIDATED ISD | FORT BEND COUNTY | 14,760 | 17,864 | 3,104 | 21.0% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1976 | \$1,6976 |
| 015909 | SOMERSET ISD | BEXAR COUNTY | 2,501 | 3,284 | 783 | 31.3% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1850 | \$1,6850 |
| 170903 | MONTGOMERY ISD | MONTGOMERY COUNTY | 3,284 | 4,640 | 1,356 | 41.3% | \$1,4770 | \$0,1830 | \$1,6600 |
| 070903 | ENNIS ISD | ELLIS COUNTY | 4,785 | 5,393 | 608 | 12.7% | \$1,4703 | \$0,1816 | \$1,6519 |
| 130901 | BOERNE ISD | KENDALL COUNTY | 4,735 | 5,380 | 645 | 13.6% | \$1,4550 | \$0,1650 | \$1,6200 |
| 108902 | DONNA ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 9,893 | 11,700 | 1,807 | 18.3% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1600 | \$1,6600 |
| 108905 | HIDALGO ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 2,528 | 3,157 | 629 | 24.9% | \$1,4400 | \$0,1500 | \$1,5900 |
| 070911 | RED OAK ISD | ELLIS COUNTY | 4,192 | 4,803 | 611 | 14.6% | \$1,4900 | \$0,1500 | \$1,6400 |
| 240903 | UNITED ISD | WEBB COUNTY | 24,205 | 32,262 | 8,057 | 33.3% | \$1,3799 | \$0,1469 | \$1,5268 |
| 031912 | SAN BENITO CONS ISD | CAMERON COUNTY | 8,680 | 9,886 | 1,206 | 13.9% | \$1,4254 | \$0,1440 | \$1,5694 |
| 108912 | LA JOYA ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 15,791 | 21,765 | 5,974 | 37.8% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1420 | \$1,6420 |
| 014906 | KILLEEN ISD | BELL COUNTY | 28,576 | 32,583 | 4,007 | 14.0% | \$1,4200 | \$0,1383 | \$1,5583 |
| 084911 | FRIENDSWOOD ISD | GALVESTON COUNTY | 4,874 | 5,527 | 653 | 13.4% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1370 | \$1,6370 |
| 108903 | EDCOUCH-ELSA ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 4,709 | 5,366 | 657 | 14.0% | \$1,4723 | \$0,1277 | \$1,6000 |
| 108916 | VALLEY VIEW ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 2,014 | 2,956 | 942 | 46.8% | \$1,4251 | \$0,1238 | \$1,5489 |
| 031906 | LOS FRESNOS CONS ISD | CAMERON COUNTY | 6,291 | 7,510 | 1,219 | 19.4% | \$1,4540 | \$0,1220 | \$1,5760 |
| 108911 | SHARYLAND ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 4,791 | 6,751 | 1,960 | 40.9% | \$1,4455 | \$0,1195 | \$1,5650 |
| 247901 | FLORESVILLE ISD | WILSON COUNTY | 3,194 | 3,566 | 372 | 11.6% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1176 | \$1,6176 |
| 214901 | RIO GRANDE CITY CISD | STARR COUNTY | 8,189 | 9,526 | 1,337 | 16.3% | \$1,4500 | \$0,1160 | \$1,5660 |
| 108909 | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 21,075 | 26,493 | 5,418 | 25.7% | \$1,5000 | \$0,1135 | \$1,6135 |
| 101902 | ALDINE ISD | HARRIS COUNTY | 49,535 | 56,292 | 6,757 | 13.6% | \$1,5800 | \$0,1090 | \$1,6890 |
| 108908 | MISSION CONS ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 12,077 | 14,094 | 2,017 | 16.7% | \$1,4632 | \$0,1059 | \$1,5691 |
| 220904 | EVERMAN ISD | TARRANT COUNTY | 3,421 | 3,832 | 411 | 12.0% | \$1,5000 | \$0,0960 | \$1,5960 |
| 108904 | EDINBURG CISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 20,608 | 25,373 | 4,765 | 23.1% | \$1,5000 | \$0,0951 | \$1,5951 |

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| 107902 | BROWNSBORO ISD | HENDERSON COUNTY | 2,393 | 2,721 | 328 | 13.7% | \$1.5000 | \$0.0950 | \$1.5950 |
| 159901 | EAGLE PASS ISD | MAVERICK COUNTY | 12,242 | 13,496 | 1,254 | 10.2% | \$1.2746 | \$0.0773 | \$1.3519 |
| 225902 | MOUNT PLEASANT ISD | TITUS COUNTY | 4,442 | 5,129 | 687 | 15.5% | \$1.5000 | \$0.0580 | \$1.5580 |
| 108913 | WESLACO ISD | HIDALGO COUNTY | 13,066 | 14,977 | 1,911 | 14.6% | \$1.3860 | \$0.0440 | \$1.4300 |
| 031901 | BROWNSVILLE ISD | CAMERON COUNTY | 40,276 | 45,923 | 5,647 | 14.0% | \$1.4719 | \$0.0137 | \$1.4856 |