



# ROCKDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Howell Wright, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

Penny S. Curry  
*Assistant Superintendent  
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Karl Kacir  
*Assistant Superintendent  
for Business*

Chad Jones  
*High School Principal  
(512) 430-6140*

April Eschberger  
*Junior High Principal  
(512) 430-6100*

Pamela Kaufmann  
*Intermediate Principal  
(512) 430-6200*

Robin Faulkner  
*Elementary Principal  
(512) 430-6030*

March 8, 2011

Greetings Senators,

My name is Howell Wright, Superintendent of Rockdale ISD. Rockdale ISD is a small 3A size school with an enrollment of 1700 students. My testimony on Senate Bill 443 is in behalf of Rockdale ISD, The Texas Association of Community Schools, and Texas Rural Educators Association.

I want to thank Senator Patrick for listening to educators regarding the need for flexibility in the operation of school districts. Though we support most of the components of the bill we ask for consideration of the 21:1 district wide average to reflect an increase in class size proportional to the decrease in funding. For example if districts are reduced 5% then a 23 student limit would be in place and if the state reduces district funding 10% then a 24 student limit would be in place. This approach is aligned by the percentage of dollars a district is reduced to the percentage of students above the current 22:1 ratio. Again, thank you for the flexibility provided in Senate Bill 443.

It is important to understand that small school districts with 1 teacher per grade level or mid size school districts that are already at a 22:1 limit in all of their K-4 classrooms are limited to reducing personnel costs with a decrease in the class average. Waivers may be an option, but they usually send the wrong message home to parents and create discontent with staff members that mistakenly believe the district does not care about class size.

Sincerely,

Howell Wright  
Superintendent of Education  
Rockdale ISD  
512-430-6000  
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March 8, 2011

Greetings Senators,

My name is Howell Wright, Superintendent of Rockdale ISD. Rockdale ISD is a small 3A size school with an enrollment of 1700 students. My testimony supporting Senate Bill 468 is on behalf of Rockdale ISD, The Texas Association of Mid Size Schools, The Texas Association of Community Schools, and Texas Rural Educators Association.

I want to thank Senator Shapiro for listening to educators regarding the need for flexibility in school districts. Senate Bill 468 allows for school districts to make decisions regarding personnel in an effort to save more classroom and employee positions in a time of reduced funding. The permanent changes to Chapter 21 contracts and the administration of the Fitness Gram to high school students provides a common sense approach that will allow districts to reduce costs. Again, thank you for the flexibility provided in Senate Bill 468.

Sincerely,

Howell Wright  
Superintendent of Education  
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