



## Coalition to INVEST IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

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### **Statement by Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools in response to Governor Rick Perry's State of the State Address:**

The Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools today applauds Governor Rick Perry for making school finance an emergency issue for the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, and for his emphasis on education excellence in his State of the State address.

“We join with Governor Perry in urging that all schools achieve academic excellence, but it requires a partnership between state leaders, local school boards and school administrators, teachers and parents. The solution lies within our public schools,” said Amy Beneski, Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools.

Schools today face changing demographics and student needs, rapid growth, safety and security concerns, new, more rigorous state assessments, new requirements for high school graduation and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Schools are being asked to do more with fewer resources than ever before.

“State leaders are demanding greater accountability and performance from Texas schools, and it is imperative for the state to invest additional funding for the school children of Texas,” said Amy Beneski, Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools.

Only through investing in Texas public schools today will the state be assured the strong economic return and prosperity for all Texans tomorrow.

“On behalf of the 4.3 million school children of Texas, the Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools urges the legislature to adopt a school finance plan that increases funding, prioritizes increased student achievement, strengthens equity and ensures local control,” said Cathy Douglass, Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools. “We also urge them to not waste precious taxpayer dollars on experimental private school voucher programs that would operate without public accountability behind their private and sometimes for-profit walls.”

The Coalition welcomes the partnership of local school board members and school administrators with state leaders to continue to improve public education and to ensure every child gets a quality education.

The Coalition to Invest in Texas Schools was created to ensure that increased education funding is the top priority of all Texas lawmakers. The Coalition is comprised of organizations that represent EVERY school district in the state of Texas. Further information can be found on the Coalition's Web site, [www.investintexaschools.org](http://www.investintexaschools.org).

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