

Message from Dr. Nola Wellman, Eanes ISD Superintendent of Schools

It is no secret that the state legislature is considering cutting public education funds significantly, but I want to personalize what that means – or could mean – to the Eanes ISD community. First, a little background to set the stage on where we are today.

For a decade, the Eanes ISD Board of Trustees has maintained a Fund Balance to serve as a “rainy day fund,” recognizing that we could not rely on state funding as a stable source of revenue. Over the years, the District has dipped into the Fund Balance only a handful of times, most recently budgeting for the use of \$4.6 million last year but actually spending only \$1.3 million. This action, coupled with budget reductions, has allowed the District to maintain its programs and staffing levels without significant cuts. The Board also created a spend-down plan for the Fund Balance. Currently, Eanes ISD has a healthy Fund Balance of approximately \$30 million.

At the state level, there are several scenarios predicting how much of a hit public education funding will take. One scenario forecasts an \$11 million annual reduction to Eanes ISD. While this is a worse-case, unlikely scenario, it is one for which we must be prepared. Any significant reduction is a frightening scenario because **\$1 million equals 20 teacher positions**. The District is working on numerous contingency plans to keep people and programs as much as possible, but due to the state budget shortfall, it is inevitable that reductions will need to be made.

As a parent, taxpayer and voter, **you can make a difference and tell our legislators to protect and preserve funding for our schools**. I urge you to monitor how the state legislature proposes funding public education. Their decisions will directly affect your child or children.

We have provided additional materials, including a list of representatives in order to facilitate your communication with them. This is your opportunity to be heard. We have to send a clear message, “Make Education a Priority!”

Sincerely,



Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Eanes ISD