

## **Northside Budget Woes**

The proceedings in Austin dealing with the huge State's Budget deficit, began back in 2006 when tax rates for schools were compressed, and the new Margins tax did not raise enough revenue to replace it. The deficit was filled with Stimulus Funding in the last session, but there is no money this time, and the gap has grown even bigger.

Northside ISD has already put a hiring freeze in place and cut \$17.6 million out of this year's budget. We are looking at additional cuts for next year since we know the money is not coming. We normally hire about 500 new teachers every year, but we will not be doing that this year. Our teachers will have more students, and everyone will have more work to accomplish. We are looking at a total of 268 POSITIONS to eliminate which would happen through attrition and not be part of any plan to fire our staff. These positions will be phased out through attrition. We hope to continue to be a highly Recognized District but will have a more difficult time to maintain our programs with less staff.

We will also have a salary freeze in place for our entire staff, (approximately 13,000 employees), and will continue to look for ways to remain solvent. We are in better financial shape than most districts because we continue to plan for the future, but if you are concerned about this situation, you may certainly write letters to the Legislature and ask for adequate funding for the 95,000 students in Northside School District.

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