



# NEWS

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## **Texas School Finance Plans Open the Flood Gates to Trouble**

*-- Reform proposals open the door to new taxes and spending. --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – First, Gov. Rick Perry (R) proposed a reform of public school finances that was revenue-neutral. Then, a House committee on school finances approved a bill that raises taxes by \$1.5 billion. Now, non-education interests group are using the school finance debate to advance tax increases for their own projects.

The Texas Urban Transportation Alliance is trying to attach new fuel taxes to the education plan to fund new road projects. This proposal is the first of several expected to ride the coattails of education reform.

**“The transportation lobbyists’ money grab is typical when reform proposal stray from revenue-neutrality,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“Every group will seek special favors, increasing in the overall burden on taxpayers. The legislators of Texas must ensure that these reforms stay focused on educational finances and no “reforms” must raise overall taxes.”**

The governor has called the legislature into special session to overhaul the state’s failing school finance system. The governor’s focus is to improve the failing finances of the Texas school systems, without adding any additional burdens on taxpayers. In his effort to keep the plan revenue-neutral, the governor has the support of forty legislators who signed a Pledge to **“oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”**

**“The legislators of Texas must remain cautious to the flood of interest groups seeking to increase funding for their needs,”** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **“They must ensure their commitment to the taxpayers of Texas that any change does not increase the overall tax burden of hard-working Texans. Any proposal seeking increased funding is an attempt to throw money at a problem, and not an adequate improvement or solution to the overall problem.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*