



# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Robert Scott  
Commissioner

May 12, 2009

The Honorable David Dewhurst  
Lieutenant Governor  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Joe Straus III, Speaker  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Straus:

The instructional materials called for in Proclamation 2010 are the English Language Arts and Reading textbooks scheduled for purchase during the 2010-2011 state fiscal biennium. Our funding request for Proclamation 2010 is \$547,427,436. This amount will provide reading materials in English and Spanish for elementary grades, literature materials for secondary grades and resources for high school teachers regarding the English Language Proficiency Standards. These are the first instructional materials to include the College Readiness Standards.

We know that early reading instruction lays the foundation for future learning. Many of our students are acquiring English, learning content in English, and learning to read simultaneously. With the heightened emphasis on college readiness and end-of-course exams, these materials will provide students and teachers with appropriate resources.

Reducing funding for Proclamation 2010 by 25 percent, as is under consideration by SB1, would result in shortages in textbooks for Texas students. Even by reducing quotas and maximum costs, the state would ship over one million fewer books in literature and English language arts, with some subjects and grade levels eliminated. Given that these textbooks are a critical foundation for student achievement and success, cutting funding by that amount would undermine students' instruction in the core curriculum. If full funding of the proclamation is not possible, then I would respectfully request no more than a 10 percent reduction with the latitude for the agency to determine the best approach for realizing those savings.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have questions or need additional information regarding funding for instructional materials for Proclamation 2010.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott  
Commissioner of Education

RS/ag