



North East Independent School District

8961 TESORO DRIVE - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217

October 14, 2009

Dear NEISD Parent/Guardian,

Next week, your student(s) will review high school courses for the 2010-2011 school year. Each high school is holding a Course Fair on October 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. This is just an opportunity to familiarize students and parents with course offerings for next school year. Your student(s) will make his/her final course selections later this fall.

There are many rumors circulating about North East ISD replacing the high school A/B block schedule with a seven-period day. NEISD has been discussing the move to a seven-period day for several years and has seen other districts similar in size to NEISD successfully make the change. The district has maintained the high school schedule because of the wide appeal to high school students and their families, but can no longer afford to do so.

NEISD no longer benefits from revenue gained through increased property valuations and new properties. The district now faces a set of circumstances, unlike any others seen in previous years, which indicates the district must make significant reductions to its expenditures. NEISD is reviewing various options to address a projected budget shortfall in 2011-2012. Projections make it clear that if we continue business as usual, we will not be able to meet payroll in 2011-2012 without a loan or without a voter-approved tax increase. The district is planning the 2010-2011 budget now to avoid a financial crisis in the near future. It has identified the need to reduce expenditures by \$27 million over the next three fiscal years.

The district has explored a range of options and has already implemented several cost saving measures that have allowed us to maintain quality programs, including the high school A/B schedule. With 87 percent of its budget dedicated to salaries and benefits and another four percent tied up for utilities, fuel, appraisal fees, etc., the district has few other options to reduce expenditures. Replacing the A/B schedule with a seven-period day would reduce the number of teachers needed to staff each high school. It is expected that this change would save at least \$6.5 million.

At this time, the district is recommending replacing the A/B schedule with a seven-period day for the 2010-2011 school year. The district's Board of Trustees will consider a resolution to declare the need for financial exigency and programmatic changes at a public meeting on October 19, 2009 at 6 p.m. This resolution would give authority to the superintendent and district staff to implement expenditure reductions like the replacement of the A/B schedule.

More information about the high school schedule will be sent to parents with the outcome of Monday's meeting. If you have any questions, contact your high school counselor or principal.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Middleton
Superintendent of Schools

Jeff Vaughan
Principal, Churchill High School

Kristopher Wickerham
Principal, Johnson High School

Michael Cardona
Principal, Lee High School

Kathy Bieser
Principal, ISA

Bobbie Turnbo
Principal, MacArthur High School

Chris Thompson
Principal, Madison High School

Bill Boyd
Principal, Reagan High School

Rick Canales
Principal, Roosevelt High School