



**Some actions to take**

**Other effective & doable actions**

**1.** Talk to other families in your neighborhood and the larger community.

**2.** Document and report how funding cuts are affecting your school.

**3.** Organize a group to speak at public events.

**4.** Work with your PTA to take a stand for equitable funding and publicize it.

**5.** Ask groups – like your school board, city council or county commissioners – to pass a resolution (see sample at [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)).

**6.** Talk to clergy about funding inequity and approach congregations.

**7.** Hold a news conference on the issue.

**8.** Write a letter or talk to your state elected officials.

**9.** Organize a letter writing campaign in support of fair funding of schools.

**10.** Testify before the legislature on this topic.

## Action Examples and Resources

### 1. Talk to other families in your neighborhood and the larger community.

- Use the key points flier to have conversations with other families (see flier at [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)).

### 2. Document and report how funding cuts are affecting your school.

- Have budget cuts forced your school to cut teachers? Curricula? Programs? Transportation? Visit the School Funding Crowmap to share your story: <https://schoolfunding.crowdmap.com>
- Get teenagers to help you go online and report how your schools have been hurt.
- Give the Crowmap web address to your friends and encourage them to report too.

### 3. Organize a group to speak at public events.

- Join two or three others who are willing to speak at a public meeting using the Fair Funding Now! materials to make your points.
- Give out the Crowmap web address and encourage participants to report too.

### 4. Work with your PTA to take a stand for equitable funding and publicize it.

- Get on the PTA meeting agenda and hand out this Fair Funding Now! information.
- Get volunteers to commit to distribute the info to other families.
- Use IDRA's OurSchool portal to show how budget cuts are affecting your school.

### 5. Ask groups – like your school board, city council or county commissioners – to pass a resolution.

- Find a member of a board to introduce the resolution giving them the Fair Funding Now! sample resolution as a model (see sample at [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)).

### 6. Talk to clergy about school funding equity and approach congregations.

- Talk to your minister or a church leader to introduce this topic to the congregation.
- Have your congregation host a meeting for you to present on the topic.
- Use IDRA's OurSchool portal to show how budget cuts are affecting your schools.

### 7. Hold a news conference on the issue.

- Prepare a statement based on the Fair Funding Now! materials.
- Gather representatives from several organizations and call a press conference on this topic.

### 8. Write a letter or talk to your state elected officials.

- Give Fair Funding Now! materials to your elected officials and ask for their support.
- Use IDRA's OurSchool portal to show how budget cuts are affecting your schools.

### 9. Organize a letter writing campaign in support of fair funding of schools.

- Get some friends together for a letter-writing party. Get the addresses of your elected officials and your newspaper a head of time. Gather different kinds of writing materials & stationery.

### 10. Testify before the legislature on this topic.

- Find out when state committees meet and have hearings and go and give your testimony.

**Get more resources and news at [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)**



## How are Funding Cuts Affecting Your School? Sample Questions

In Spring 2011, Texas lawmakers cut \$6.4 billion from the state's education budget, leaving local districts to make up the difference. How are budget cuts impacting schools in your community? Below are a set of guiding questions to gather this kind of information and put your story on the map at <http://schoolfunding.crowdmap.com/>

What is the school district name: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the school name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions you could ask the school superintendent or principal...

- Did our district [or school] have to cut faculty, staff, programs or services?
  - If so, what specific services were cut?
  - How many teachers and staff were fired or laid off?
  - Which teachers lost jobs?
  - In which schools can we expect to see a decline in teaching staff?
- How do school administrators think these cuts will impact school capacity to serve students, involve parents, engage communities?
- Is the district working with the city with the intent of raising local taxes
  - If so, to cover what kinds of services, staff, programs?
- Is the district raising fees to make up the difference?
  - If so, what kinds of fees?
- Is there a school or community website or news article that describes the budget cuts, specifically how they relate to the district (or campus)?

### Questions you could ask families and community members...

- Have you heard about budget cuts in your district or school to faculty, staff, programs or services?
- What are you most concerned about?
- How are these changes affecting your child or children in your community?

### Questions you could ask teachers or counselors...

- Have there been cuts to faculty, staff, programs or services at you school?
- What cuts concern you most?
- How are they affecting you, your students or families in the district?

**Visit the School Funding Crowdmap to share your story**  
**<https://schoolfunding.crowdmap.com>**