

# We will continue to see disparities....



...in a tax system that relies on the property tax.

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency, 2002-2003

### Equal Funding for an Equal Tax Effort

Different communities across Texas can raise vastly different amount to support their local public schools because the value of property varies so much across the state. The diagram above shows the taxable value per pupil for two communities in Texas. A taxable value of \$990,275 means that the Highland Park community will raise \$99.00 per student for each penny of tax effort; San Elizario can only raise \$2.37 per student. While a penny of tax effort in Highland Park will buy each of their students a software program, San Elizario can hardly buy a student his lunch with the same penny of tax effort. The Robin Hood system helps ensure that every community in this state willing to make the tax effort to have excellent public schools has the same ability to do so as any other community willing to make the same effort. The current system guarantees equal funding for equal tax effort, regardless of local property wealth. If the Robin Hood system is replaced with one that limits state aid, but allows communities to fund their local schools with extra money raised only from the local tax base, only the richer communities will be able to afford to enrich their schools.

#### 2002-03 El Paso County Taxable Value Per Pupil

Anthony ISD	\$131,334	San Elizario	\$ 24,310
Canutillo ISD	\$118,226	Socorro	\$ 99,058
Clint ISD	\$ 50,336	Tornillo	\$ 32,798
El Paso ISD	\$141,109	Ysleta	\$ 93,786
Fabens	\$ 37,686		