

To the Taxpayers of Crosby:

On December 12, 2009 Crosby ISD is having a Tax Ratification Election. Our District has many needs that are not able to be met out of our regular budget and we have been forced to seek significant additional sources of revenue. Factors that have led to this point are:

- The state of Texas underfunding public education.
- No inflation factor for schools in several years.
- Many unfunded mandates.
- The funding formula that does not benefit districts from local property value growth. As local taxes increase, the state reduces its payments to districts by the same amount of the increase.

So far, over 250 school districts have gone to their taxpayers asking for additional funding. Three districts in our area, Galena Park, Katy, and Humble, all recently passed Tax Ratification Elections.

Crosby has many major needs that need to be addressed immediately, and we have a complete list in the chart below. Most of the immediate money would go towards:

- Technology –85% of CISD's 2,800 computers are 5 years or older. We currently do not have the technology for our students that many surrounding districts have. We need to invest 2 million immediately in computers, LCD projectors, SMART boards, and staff training to get our students ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Renovate the Instructional Annex to add 11 extra classrooms to accommodate the elementary growth in Crosby for the next 3 – 4 years.
- Safety Issues – security cameras at elementary campuses, modify parking lot at BPS to get the traffic off FM 1942, new fire alarm and PA systems at BPS and NES.

- Science Labs at CHS – The state now requires all students to have 4 years of science for graduation. We need additional labs so that all of our students can have science in a lab setting.

In addition, the money raised from the tax ratification would allow the district to allocate \$300,000 every year for technology to ensure our students stay prepared to go out into the world. We would also yearly designate \$300,000 to replace aged buses, and have funds to facilitate other needed repairs. The 10 year plan that is below is not etched in stone, but it will provide a blueprint that will guide the district in the next several years.

If the tax ratification passes, the state of Texas will give Crosby ISD 60 cents for every local dollar we raise. The state's philosophy is that if the local community steps up and gives more, the state of Texas will also. In our case, it would mean an additional million dollars a year for CISD every year from the state of Texas to be used for our students.

If the tax ratification does not pass, CISD will have many needs that will still have to be met (Ex: fire alarm systems at BPS and NES, buses, servers, etc). We would have to cut approximately 2 million out of our present budget to meet these needs. The result would be:

- Program and position cuts – losing approximately 40 positions.
- Higher class sizes across the district
- Portable buildings
- Outdated technology for staff and students
- Lessened ability to compete for qualified staff to come to Crosby

On December 12 Crosby will decide whether to keep the tax rate of \$1.44 or roll it back to last year's rate of \$1.34. The proposed increases would mean property owners paying an additional \$100 per year on a house values at \$100,000, or \$8.33 per month. Regardless of what happens on December 12, we will open our doors and greet our students next year. However, the community will decide on the 12<sup>th</sup> the scope of the education that we will be able to offer for our students. Everyone who has a student in the district, works in the district, has property, or a business in the district has a major investment in the outcome of the election. I encourage everyone to vote.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 281 328-9204 or [mjoseph@crosbyisd.org](mailto:mjoseph@crosbyisd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Joseph".

Michael Joseph  
Superintendent of Schools  
Crosby ISD