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Public Forum on Texas Public Schools:
**How Are Texas Public Schools Really Doing?
Seeing Through the Politics and Rhetoric**

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Richardson ISD Auditorium, 400 S. Greenville Avenue

Dallas (February 9, 2006) – With public education in the hot seat and many political leaders out to fix the system, inaccurate judgments and oftentimes unfair criticism cloud the reality of the state of our public schools. This forum is an opportunity for the public to participate in a discussion about the current, accurate state of our schools, including strengths and weaknesses, funding, and real solutions.

Many prominent state and local organizations have partnered to initiate this important dialog, including:

Baptist Christian Life Commission

Citizens Commission on Education Excellence

Friends of Texas Public Schools

Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce

League of Women Voters

Richardson ISD Council of PTAs

Texas Business & Education Coalition

Texas Education Crisis Coalition

Texas Impact

Texas PTA

Moderated by **Bill McKenzie**, Editorial Editor of The Dallas Morning News, this forum aims to increase the public's awareness of public school successes, challenges, and needed reforms; to hear what the public believes, without influence from our political representatives, what is important to them; and to help the public better understand the challenges of public school finance.

Featured speakers include:

Mike Moses, former Commissioner of Education and DISD Superintendent

Jim Nelson, former Commissioner of Education and current Richardson ISD Superintendent

David Thompson, Attorney, Bracewell and Giuliani LLP

Questions to be addressed include:

1. Which components of our current public education system are working really well and, conversely, which components need to be added, changed or deleted altogether?
2. What reforms would make our public schools more effective and productive? Which would not?
3. How are my tax dollars collected and spent on education? How did we end up with the education funding system we have today? What are the possible solutions to the crisis in school funding, especially those that may be on the table during the Legislative Special Session in April?