



To Whom it May Concern,

The effect of underfunded schools directly impacts the most seriously underserved student population in our community. Consider that nearly two thirds of all the students in the HASD are Latino and the complications that arise from that. Lack of funding is the underlying cause in many, if not all, of the following real-world developments:

Shortage of classroom space. Children were forced to attend kindergarten online, and in many cases not at all, due to a shortage of classroom space. This causes children who are likely to enter school behind due to language challenges fall even further behind because of limited or missing kindergarten.

High school students graduating with no English language proficiency whatsoever. Instead, they are sent to social service organizations to do community service in order to get a diploma. Sets students up for failure when they try to enter the work world.

Shortage of bilingual liaisons in all buildings. Poor registration opportunities. When a family moves to our area they are frequently limited in English proficiency. This causes a tremendous backlog in administration and delays getting the children seated. Also stresses organizations like ours who end up doing the work of registration for the schools at our own expense.

Transportation problems: What good is school choice if transportation is so poor that many "better" schools are omitted altogether and the transportation to those that are participants is so convoluted as to render choice meaningless.

Teacher to student ratios in inner city schools are much higher than suburban schools: a problem that can only be solved with a fair-funding ratio.

Lack of technology and STEM training. Again, more funding needed.

Our organization has attempted to help fill the gap created by funding shortfalls, but we are just one organization and there are so many students in the district.