

# Lago Vista ISD

## Frequently Asked Questions About ASATR

### Did the legislature vote to continue ASATR (Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction) funding?

**No.** Unfortunately, the inaction of the Texas Legislature will cause Lago Vista ISD to lose almost \$1.2 million in state funding for 2017-2018. Funds lost for 2018-19 is undetermined at this time but should be similar. The school finance bill was connected to a voucher proposal which would allow parents to use state money for private school tuition. When the voucher proposal failed, the possibility of school finance reform died.

### How much money will Lago Vista ISD lose on a per pupil basis?

A loss of \$1.2 million will mean that Lago Vista ISD has approximately \$875 less to spend per student. Lago Vista ISD's ASATR payment in 2008-2009 equated to \$2,370 per student, which will be reduced to \$0 in 2017-2018 without legislative action.

### How much is \$1.2 million of the total operating budget for Lago Vista ISD?

\$1.2 million is 10% of our total budget. As you know, 74% of our budget is personnel (primarily teachers), 15% is non-discretionary costs such as utilities and other mandatory costs of doing business, which leaves approximately 11% of discretionary costs, such as campus-controlled budgets. If our district were to cut costs to cover what the legislature has taken away, it would require us to increase class size and eliminate support positions. To put this in perspective, we would have to eliminate almost 20% of our teaching staff to reach a savings of \$1.2 million for next school year.

### Is there anything we can do at this point?

**Yes, our only avenue for the legislature to consider restoring ASATR funding lies in the hands of Governor Greg Abbott.** Only the Governor can include ASATR in the special session. Before the special session, the taxpayer communities of the approximately 200 districts currently receiving ASATR funds must communicate to Governor Abbott to stress the importance of retaining the ASATR funding we have received since 2006. Remember, when the legislature mandated compressed tax rates, they also promised to keep all districts whole through ASATR funds.

If you have any direct or indirect connections to Governor Abbott, please leverage those connections to communicate the critical importance of continuing ASATR funding for Lago Vista ISD and the other ASATR districts in Texas.

### How do I communicate with the Governor's Office?

Time is of the essence. Please contact the Governor's office in writing regarding the importance of ASATR for the Lago Vista ISD, and ask that ASATR be included in a special session since the legislature was unable or unwilling to resolve the ASATR issue during the regular session.

**We are on a short timeline. You may contact the Governor in one of the following ways:**

**Online Contact Form for the Governor's Office:** <https://gov.texas.gov/contact/>

**Governor's Phone #:** 512.463.2000

**Governor's Fax #:** 512.463.1849

One of the many blessings we enjoy in Lago Vista ISD is a community focused on and supportive of education. In uncertain times such as these, it is crucial that we all have the same, clear understanding of our finance situation and that we communicate a united message to our State leadership.

**Thank you for supporting Lago Vista ISD!**