

**May 19, 2011**

Madame Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Robert Calvert. I am the Chief Information Officer for Fort Bend Independent school district, the 7<sup>th</sup> largest school district in Texas, educating approximately 69,000 students annually.

I would like to thank Senator Huffman and Representative Reynolds for listening to the concerns of the Administrators, Teachers, Parents and Students in and around Fort Bend ISD and then subsequently introducing House Bill 1224 to which we support.

The events that have lead me to testify before you today began just over 3 years ago. During the 2007-2008 school year, one of our campuses had identified and corrected grade changes twice during the school year for 37 students. A more in depth investigation was launched and specific students were identified as suspects. These students were suspected of changing attendance and grade records as well as authoring emails from teacher accounts to unsuspecting parents and searching for Teacher test banks just to mention a few activities.

As a result of a steep escalation of hacking activities specifically designed to seriously disrupt District and campus operations, warrants were executed on the homes of 4 Fort Bend ISD students. Additionally, on the day the warrants were served, the District conducted a broad academic investigation interviewing more than 70 students to determine the depth and breadth of the hacking activities.

Following the academic investigation, 11 students from 3 different High Schools were assigned to DAEP. However, placement of these students into DAEP did not eliminate or even reduce the District's exposure to their hacking threat due to the fact that the DAEP program utilizes the District's network just like their home campus. Placement of these students into DAEP required that the DAEP staff be extraordinarily careful to ensure that none of these specific students would have access to computers at any time. Lastly, had these students wanted to create more disruption the DAEP network access would have provided them another opportunity to so from inside the District walls.

In closing Fort Bend ISD supports this Bill to provide school district's more flexibility in assigning expulsion to students that commit the offense of breach of computer security.

Presented by:  
Robert C. Calvert  
Chief Information Officer  
Fort Bend ISD