



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## TSTA: Greg Abbott lied about school finance appeal

Attorney General Greg Abbott is under no legal requirement to appeal state District Judge John Dietz's school finance ruling, contrary to the claim Abbott made in Friday's gubernatorial debate. Abbott said a 2011 law does not give him the discretion to drop the appeal and settle the lawsuit.

"Greg Abbott either deliberately lied to Texans, or, as the state's chief lawyer, isn't competent enough to know the law," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "There is absolutely nothing in state law that requires the attorney general to continue wasting tax dollars trying to defend an inadequate and unconstitutional school funding system."

"TSTA renews its demand that Abbott drop further appeals now, and we urge legislators to begin work immediately on a school finance plan that gives all Texas children the resources they need to succeed," Candelaria added. "We commend Senator Wendy Davis for advocating for a sound school funding plan, not costly, politically motivated delays."

By beginning work now, lawmakers can be prepared to use surplus state funds and a rapidly growing Rainy Day Fund to enact a constitutional funding law when the legislature convenes in January.

The 2011 law that Abbott cited during the debate merely specified which settlements of lawsuits against the state are contingent on legislative approval. It did nothing to prevent the attorney general from dropping an appeal and negotiating a school finance settlement for presentation to the Legislature.