FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2014
Contact: Rebecca Acuña: (956) 206-5853
Wendy R. Davis for Governor Campaign

Davis Releases Fourth Part of Education Plan

"Great Standards: Great Texas" calls for more teaching, less testing

Fort Worth, TX: Senator Wendy Davis today unveiled the fourth piece of her "Great Schools: Great Texas" education policy platform. "Great Standards: Great Texas" is Senator Davis' plan to reduce the emphasis on standardized testing in classrooms and ensure genuine local control.

"Securing Texas' economic future for all Texans means ensuring every student has access to a 21st century education," said Senator Wendy Davis. "Teachers know that a student's success is measured not by one test on one day, but by growth over the year. My proposal will help ensure genuine local control that empowers schools to teach more and test less. In contrast, Greg Abbott's plan could force four year olds to take standardized tests in order to pick and choose which kids get access to a quality education and which don't."

As Governor, Wendy Davis will reduce the emphasis on standardized testing and help ensure genuine local control by:

1. Signing legislation that rewards local innovation and requires that our tests measure learning, not just test-taking ability - such as HB 2824 and HB 2836.
2. Directing the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to include an emphasis on the quality of learning.
3. Empowering neighborhood schools with the flexibility they need to design local accountability measures.
4. Giving parents and local administrators control over the frequency and type of assessments used to measure student growth.
5. Supporting districts with locally-developed accountability plans regardless of federal mandates.
6. Reducing wasteful spending and improving financial transparency by evaluating the process by which the TEA selects the testing contractors.

Senator Davis has previously released three other parts of her comprehensive education reform proposal. "Great Teachers: Great Texas" focuses on recruiting and retaining the next generation of teachers, "Great Pathways: Great Texas" on expanding higher education opportunities, and "Great Start: Great Texas" on increasing access to early education for our youngest Texans.

A one page summary of "Great Standards: Great Texas" and the complete proposal are attached for your reference.

Great Standards Great Texas Proposal

Great Standards Great Texas One Pager

###