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180 School finance reform? Ask more questions

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A national think tank organization called the Texas Public Policy Foundation is currently exploring the issue of school tax reform.

Although they have yet to establish any solid answers addressing school spending, the group has come to the conclusion that people are asking the wrong questions.

"People are asking the wrong questions and focusing on the wrong issues," said Michael Quinn Sullivan of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Sullivan was the guest speaker during last Tuesday's Kendall County Republic Party club at Mission Pharmacal. He encour-

aged the audience to stop focusing so much on state funding and start focusing on developing children into successful, literate, contributing members of society.

When asked about Boerne's current one or two school issue, Sullivan urged the community to explore the possibilities with caution and facts.

"What the community should be focusing on is academic achievement, period. Not how many schools there needs to be," he said. "It needs to be proven and demonstrated by factual information that whether it be one or two schools, the benefit will be higher academic achievements from students."

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Sullivan also believes that the closer to home school funding is, the more successful the education program.

"We need to get away from relying totally on state funding," he said. "A study by Harvard concluded that the closer money

is to the school house the higher the academic achievement is."

He warned the audience not to let Austin take care of school finance reform.

"What's happening right now is that the state is shifting around tax dollars thinking you won't notice," said Sullivan. "We can't allow them to hide these taxes."

He also insisted that the state of Texas does not have a tax

problem but a spending problem.

"When it comes to education, more money is not necessarily the answer," Sullivan said. "At the end of the day we as a society should only be worried if our child learned something essential to his or her educational development."

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