



Houston News

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Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Thousands Turn Out For Rally

After 12,000 people showed up for a rally on Saturday, teachers hit the Capitol for another education rally on Monday.

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American Federation of Teachers President **Randi Weingarten** spoke at Monday's rally about how students will be impacted should potential cuts become reality.

"Kids who need smaller classes will not get the education they need next year with these cuts," Weingarten told the crowd.

Shelley Potter, President of the **San Antonio Alliance of Teachers**, challenged **Governor Rick Perry** to do the right thing.

"We have a Governor who is not being a very good role-model because he's trying to do everything he can to weasel out of taking responsibility for his actions," Potter said while addressing those in attendance.

State Senator **Rodney Ellis** (D-Houston) cautions that ultimately the cuts will hurt students the most.

"We cannot afford to write-off an entire generation of children," says Ellis. "Because that's what's really at stake."

But **James Golsan**, Education Policy Analyst with the **Texas Public Policy Foundation**, says lawmakers are going about crafting the budget the right way.

"Is it a perfect addressing of the public education situation? We haven't faced a public education situation like this before, but they are taking it on head-on," Golsan says. "There's definitely room for greater accountability measures in public education. We're kind of at a point right now where we can't have anything viewed as a sacred cow."

Over 4,000 people attended the rally.

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