

Premont School District (A)¹

In 2012, school districts across Texas struggled to cope with roughly \$4 billion in state-aid cuts. Rural districts like Premont took a tremendous hit. A limited local tax base and sliding population led to the prospect of closing or consolidating with bigger districts.

The Premont Independent School District in South Texas lost accreditation in 2011 after it failed to meet adequate yearly progress requirements. It was slated to close in July 2012. A unanimous vote from the board, followed by a request from the Superintendent, won a one-year extension from the State to improve student performance and attendance rates within the school district.

According to the Superintendent, the district's financial challenges were exacerbated by the loss of state-aid cuts. The district's limited local tax base and sliding population led to the prospect of closing or consolidating with bigger districts. The Superintendent requested a one-year extension from the State to improve student performance and attendance rates within the school district.

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Exhibit 1: Premont ISD (2011-12)

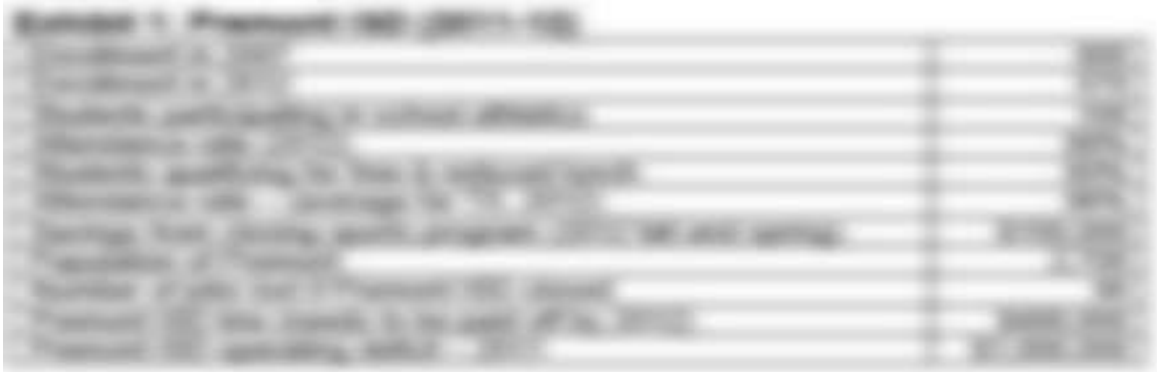


Exhibit 2: Stakeholder comments

"My friends and I were very disappointed when we heard there would be no baseball, track or tennis," said LT, 17 years old, who plays all three sports. "A lot of them cried."

"It breaks my heart, and it is not fair for the kids, who are paying for mistakes adults made over the last 10 to 12 years," said Premont Head Coach, who also teaches U.S. history at the high school.






Sources & Credits:

"Texas district cancels sports in hopes of improving grades," Fox News, US, January 21, 2012, Associated Press.

"Texas School Sports Ban: Premont Schools Drop Athletics to Save District," The Huffington Post, 01/23/2012 01:31 pm ET | **Updated** Mar 24, 2012

"Friday Night Lights (Out)," *Wall Street Journal*, January 26, 2012.