

**Testimony of Mike Falick
Member - Board of Trustees
Spring Branch Independent School District**

**State of Texas
House Committee on Public Education
April 28, 2009**

Summary of Testimony

Introduction

- Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Committee
- Mike Falick, Member of the Board of Trustees and Legislative Liaison, Spring Branch Independent School District
 - 32,000 students on 46 campuses, representing the diversity of the State of Texas
 - 57% low SES
 - 30% overall ELL
 - 51% pre-K - 2 ELL
- I am here today to testify for HB 1281
- Board Legislative Priority
 - Premiere college focused District
 - Accountability
 - Spring Branch ISD believes that it is time to replace the current accountability system with an accountability system that . . .
 - assesses students based on annual academic, non-academic growth and development of 21st Century workforce skills . . .
 - rewards success based on overall student performance
- Critical importance of this effort
- Research shows that students who are systematically taught these skills
 - Have far fewer discipline referrals
 - Empathize and collaborate better
 - Have fewer problems like substance abuse and violence
 - Like school more and pay more attention in class
 - And score significantly better (11%, on average) on academic achievement test scores.
 - www.casel.org
- Student preparation for 21st Century workforce
- ALF Conference December 10, 2008
 - Brought together over 200 business people, community members, and educators from across the State of Texas committed to this effort
 - <http://www.coalitionfortexaschildren.org/>
- Adult responsibility education = student success in life
- Thank you for your time and commitment.