

Remarks by Connie Sadowski, January 13, 2010
State Board of Education
Press Conference by
American's for Prosperity, Free Market Foundation, Austin CEO Foundation, Hon. Ken Mercer,
Bill Ames, Jason Moore

My name is Connie Sadowski and my message to you today is: parents ENJOY YOUR KIDS, GET INVOLVED.

Graduation rates, and attendance, and test scores are falling.

Rising numbers of kids are in disciplinary school settings. Dropout and homeless and runaways are increasing. We see alarming illiteracy rates, drug use, and teen pregnancy.

Increasing parental involvement is key to a improving a child's education.

It's hard for parents to know how or where to get started. I am the wife and mother of four Austin ISD elementary, middle and high school kids

and I can tell you first hand that it is difficult to find time to get involved.

Parents work longer hours, and take extra jobs. Other responsibilities put limits on our time. Many grandparents are now guardians. But I urge you: ENJOY YOUR KIDS, GET INVOLVED.

I am a parent advocate for the Austin CEO Foundation, a nonprofit agency advocating for parental involvement in Texas schools.

I developed our website and host events to serve as a resource to parents,

resources to help make their limited time most useful. Parents can find information to become useful partners in their kid's education.

There are many great teachers and schools get to know them and the curriculum and textbooks your children are using. ENJOY YOUR KIDS; GET INVOLVED.

Vote for School Board members and State Board of Education members who appreciate our country's rich history, members that respect your values and education goals you have for your child.

Attend your school's monthly meetings, email just to thank your child's teacher.

Call to ask for parent teacher conferences, ask your child specific questions about their classes. Review their textbooks and ask questions.

Turn off the TV and other electronics on school nights and limit their use on weekends.

Take turns reading out loud as a family, play board games, ask about your child's day. ENJOY YOUR KIDS: GET INVOLVED.

Listen online or attend School Board and State Board of Education meetings. Correspond with your board members.

Use our website as a resource to improve communication with your children's school.

Bookmark our website www.ceoaustin.org and pass it on. Find resources and events supporting public, private, charter, virtual and home schools.

Parents: Enjoy your children. GET INVOLVED. And if you do...

you will never sit in your rocking chair in your old age with regrets and wish you'd done more.

ENJOY YOUR KIDS; GET INVOLVED.

Thank you.