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## Nichols meets with local superintendents

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Newton -- Last week, Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) met with local superintendents from Newton and Jasper counties. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss education issues in preparation for the 85th Legislature which convenes in January.

"The Legislature faces many challenges this session, and we cannot make good decisions unless we are listening closely to those we represent," said Nichols. "Education is and always will be one of the most important issues we face as a state."

Before each legislative session Nichols meets with each of the school district Superintendents in Senate District 3 to listen to their priorities and discuss issues facing the local education community.

"It was a pleasure to host Senator Nichols while he visited with the surrounding superintendents. We had an informative discussion regarding school finance, state testing and teacher shortages," said Newton ISD Supertindent Michelle Barrow, host of the meeting. "On behalf of the Jasper and Newton county superintendents we truly appreciate Senator Nichols taking the time to meet with us about these issues. We are looking forward to what the future holds for public education."

Senate District 3, which includes over 100 school districts throughout 19 counties, encompasses the greater part of East Texas and Montgomery County.

"These meetings help me to understand how decisions in Austin impact local schools," stated Nichols. "I appreciate the opportunity to meet with superintendents and discuss how we can continue improving our education system. Our combined goal is to ensure children have the educational tools they need to be successful."

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Photo L-R: Kevin McCugh, Brookeland ISD Superintendent, Bobby Baker, Jasper ISD Superintendent, Senator Robert Nichols, Richard Hazlewood, Kirbyville ISD Superintendent, Dr. Steve Hyden, Buna ISD Superintendent and Michelle Barrow, Newton ISD Superintendent.