

OPINION

McNeely on the money with piece on lottery

Your recent opinion piece by Dave McNeely (Oct. 2, "Efforts to nix the state lottery face uphill fight") should be

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required reading by all Texas taxpayers.

He reminds us that what many believe is false. It is not true that the lottery was put in place in order to fund education.

We often hear people say that their school taxes should be reduced because the lottery is supposed to pay for the kid-dos.

Ann Richards, who was governor when the lottery was put in place, told voters every day that the proceeds were going into the general fund. Everywhere she went she said the money was not for education. It did not matter. People believed what they wanted to believe. A lot of them still do.

The reason the relationship between education and lottery is not direct is simple: Fixed expenses can not be paid by variable income.

School budgets are set at the beginning of the year. Those numbers are in concrete. Lottery income is unpredictable. It changes every day. Those numbers are set in quicksand.

Never should the twain meet.

**Star Carey
Canyon Lake**

