

Texas Public Education

It's time to remodel our school finance system

Texas is home to 1 of every 10 public school students in the U.S. All of our 5.4 million public school children need access to quality education programs. Well-funded schools mean: small class sizes, high-quality teachers, more arts, music and computer science. Public education is a common-sense investment in the future of Texas.

PER STUDENT SPENDING

TEXAS RANKS
42ND
in funding per student

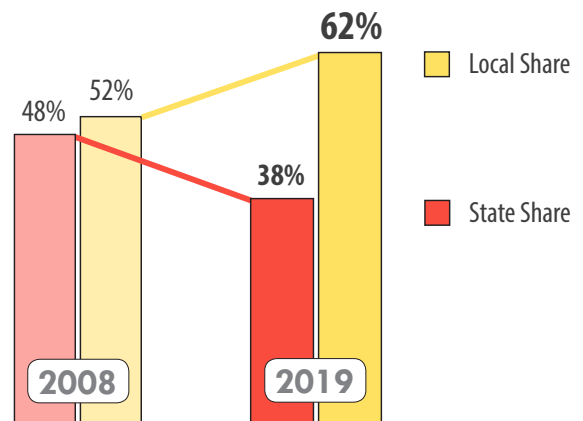
Money matters in education. But in 2011, the Texas Legislature cut \$5 billion from public education.

Every student in every grade was impacted but elementary schools with the greatest percent of low-income students were hit particularly hard. Compared to 2008, today we are spending:

- **21% less per student** on programs to keep kids on track
- **40% less per student** on bilingual education

PROPERTY TAXES

State decline in investment leaves local property taxes to cover 62% of school funding in 2019



This current distribution leaves students in districts with the lowest property wealth—disproportionately students of color—at a significant disadvantage in resources and outcomes.

SOLUTIONS



Investing in pre-kindergarten makes sense for Texas.

High-quality pre-kindergarten programs lead to savings for the state:

- Improved academic performance
- Lower school drop out rates

Learn more at www.bit.ly/financeschools

#TXVotes4Kids

1. Money in education matters. Well-funded public schools are better able to attract and retain high-quality teachers, offer smaller class sizes, and enhance art, science and other programs.

 **What steps will you take to ensure that public schools have sufficient funding to provide a high-quality education to all Texas children?**

2. In 2011, lawmakers cut over \$5 billion from the two-year public education budget, about \$500 per student each year. Some of that funding has come back, but these efforts have fallen below what is needed to keep up with inflation or the additional 80,000 students joining our public schools each year. This means that we're investing less per student than we were before the recession.

 **How will you address the underfunding of Texas public education?**

3. Property wealth varies quite a bit in Texas school districts, so the state has to help provide equitable school funding across districts. Lower-income districts tend to have more students of color, meaning that inequities in school funding disproportionately affect Texas' Black and Latino students.

 **What will you do to make sure school funding is equitable across districts and schools?**

4. The state only provides school districts with enough funding to run a half-day Pre-K program, even though a full-day program is shown to produce better results. Over half of Texas Pre-K students are in a full-day program anyway because districts invest their own money; they understand the benefits of a full day program.

 **What will you do to ensure Texas invests in full-day Pre-K for all students?**

5. School vouchers divert money from public schools to pay for private schools without requiring the same level of accountability faced by public schools. Vouchers also are of little use for students in rural areas, which have few if any private schools.

 **What is your stance on school vouchers? What will you do to keep public funding in our public schools?**

6. Children in poverty, children experiencing behavioral challenges, and English language learners need additional support to succeed in school.

 **What will you do to ensure that children from all backgrounds have the chance to succeed in school?**