



PUBLIC EDUCATION REALITY CHECK



We applaud both chambers for proposing additional spending on public education. We recognize this is a big deal, and more than the legislature has proposed in many years. ***But...let's have a reality check and put these plans in perspective.***

Texas students deserve better than being 43rd in per student spending. (Data Source: 2018 Quality Counts Report, "Education Week".)

- Texas spends 2/3rds of the national average per student. U.S. states on average spend \$12,526 per student while Texas spends \$8,485 per student.
- Texas spends three times more per inmate than per student. *Are Texas' priorities mixed up?*

The numbers in the House and Senate plans sound big because Texas is big, not because they solve the problems.

- Texas would have to **invest \$22 billion more EACH YEAR** just to reach the national average in per student spending. *Have you ever met a Texan who wants to be average, let alone 43rd?*
- **It would cost \$3.5 billion just to cover the cost of inflation each biennium.**
- **\$5 billion in Texas local taxpayer funds raised for education aren't being used for education this biennium.**

Texas needs to be honest with taxpayers.

- It's time for the state to pay its share. Local taxpayers' share of public education funding has been growing, and the state's share has been steadily declining. In 2008 the state share was 48% and is now less than 38%.
- Money raised for education needs to be spent on education. Taxpayers think their property taxes are paying for education, but much of that money is being diverted for other things.
- Both recapture and non-recapture districts are sinking under the weight of school property tax growth as the state share has plummeted.

Texans are done fighting over the scraps left from chronic underfunding of public education. We ask you to do the right thing and adequately fund public education.

So, please tell us what's the long-term plan?

Find us at JustFundItTX.org.



Just Fund It TX #JustFundItTX

Just Fund It TX is a campaign promoted by a non-partisan grassroots group of students, parents, and community members across Texas who have one clear request for Texas legislators: **Do the right thing - adequately fund public education!**

1. Overall spending must increase to:
 - a. Meet our students' growing needs,
 - b. Provide proven programs that prepare our kids for college, career, citizenship, and life,
 - c. Attract and retain high quality teachers.
2. The state should pay its share to fund our schools – at least 50%.
3. Money raised for education should be used for education.

Texans are done fighting each other over the scraps left from underfunded districts. All Texas children deserve a high-quality public education. It's in the Texas Constitution! It's time to pony up, Texas, and fund Texas schools!

Just Fund It TX members will engage in the following activities in the coming months:

- *Hosting awareness-raising house parties*
- *Spreading the word on social media and traditional media*
- *Networking with groups across Texas to spread our message*
- *Educating Texas legislators on how inadequate funding negatively impacts kids and communities across the state.*
- *Supporting students in making their voices heard at the legislature, and empowering them to participate in their state government.*

Social Media: Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JustFundItTX/>,
Twitter @JustFundItTX, and Instagram @justfunditx

Sign the student-written petition here: <https://bit.ly/2FqPe2O>

To find out more, visit our website at <http://justfunditx.org/>

Contact us at info@justfunditx.org #JustFundItTX , #DontMessWithTXKids