



## Public education is the best investment you can make!

### Welcome new members and welcome back veteran legislators!

Just Fund It TX is a non-partisan grassroots group of students, parents, and community members across Texas who first came together in 2018 to work toward improved funding for Texas public schools. We have members in every part of the state eager to support you in your commitment to invest in Texas kids.

We are at a peculiar time in history and there are stark challenges facing our state and our children. We are grateful for the progress you made to improve Texas school funding during the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, and we must hold the line and do more to support the over 5.4 million students in Texas public schools. What happens in our public schools now will determine the future of Texas children and the Texas economy.

In a 2016 report, esteemed Texas economist Dr. Ray Perryman calculated that the long-term return per dollar of incremental state investment in education is \$46.69 in additional spending throughout the economy. **That means that every dollar invested in our public schools yields almost 50 dollars in our economy.** These measures include the value of increased productivity and earnings of students educated in Texas schools, reduced costs for social services, and more. This compares to a mere \$2.82 long term economic return on a one-dollar investment in a typical private sector initiative. Investing in public education is perhaps the highest impact investment you could make!

There are several important things you can do to keep schools in every Texas community strong:

1. Texas schools need your commitment to maintain pre-pandemic funding to operate this semester. **Please extend the hold-harmless funding through the 2020-2021 year.**
2. **Texas must invest the CARES money and other federal funds provided for public education into our public schools.** Texas received \$1.2 billion for public schools under the CARES Act and is projected to receive an additional \$5 billion for schools under the recent federal stimulus appropriations. Congress intended those funds to help overcome the effects of the pandemic in local schools. It is wrong to simply use federal dollars to balance the state budget. Those funds should be used to reimburse districts for COVID-related expenses and fund supplemental education programs for students who have fallen behind.
3. **Texas must maintain the progress made in HB3 and oppose any efforts to balance the budget on the back of Texas students** like it did in 2011. We are still digging out of the hole that was created then and we cannot afford to go back. Hold the line for our kids and for the future of our state.
4. **Texas must continue working toward the national average in per-student spending,** and we have a long way to go. Texas remains in the bottom 10 states for per-student spending. The 20th percentile isn't acceptable for Texas kids or our communities.

