



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: New survey shows how deeply Texas shortchanges students, educators

Per-student funding in Texas is \$2,300 less than the national average, and teacher pay has dropped to \$7,316 below the national average, the Texas State Teachers Association reported today, citing research by its national affiliate, the National Education Association.

The per-student spending, based on average daily attendance (ADA) for the current 2017-18 school year, keeps Texas 36th among the states and the District of Columbia. Texas drops from 26th to 29th in average teacher pay.

Texas, however, is among the nation's leaders in the percentage of public education costs borne by local property taxpayers. During the 2016-17 school year, NEA reported, 56.6 percent of combined state and local revenue for Texas public schools came from local taxpayers. That local share was 15th highest in the country.

"These updated figures are shameful. They illustrate again the deep hole that our state leaders, most notably Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, continue to dig for our public schools, students and property taxpayers," TSTA President Noel Candelaria said.

"Last year, Speaker Joe Straus and a bipartisan majority of House members approved a plan to boost state education funding by \$1.8 billion as a down payment on a more adequate and equitable school finance system. But Abbott and Patrick's Senate allies slammed the door on it in a failed hijack attempt for private school vouchers," Candelaria added.

"The school children and educators of Texas won't get the level of resources they need, and local school taxpayers won't get real relief until voters start electing state leaders who truly value public education."

According to the NEA survey, which is based on budgetary data collected from the states, Texas spent an average of \$10,456 per-student in ADA in 2017-18, compared to the national average of \$12,756.

Average teacher pay in Texas for 2017-18 was \$53,167, compared to the national average of \$60,483.