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**TSTA: New figures show Texas falling farther behind in commitment to education**

Texas is falling farther behind the national average in the amount of financial resources it spends to educate our children, according to the latest annual rankings of the states compiled by the National Education Association (NEA).

Based on data obtained by NEA from state education departments, average per-student education funding in Texas remained stagnant between the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years.

- In 2014-15, Texas provided \$9,559 per student in grades K-12, based on average daily attendance (ADA). This was \$2,502 below the national average.
- In the current 2015-16 school year, Texas is spending an estimated average of \$9,561 per K-12 student – or \$2,690 below the national average of \$12,251, placing Texas 38<sup>th</sup> among the states and the District of Columbia.

- During 2010-11, the last school year before \$5.4 billion was slashed from the state education budget, Texas' average expenditure per student in ADA was \$9,462, or \$1,685 less than the national average.
- Texas now lags \$1,000 per student farther behind the national average than we did when the legislative majority cut school funding in 2011 and almost \$200 farther below the national average than last year.

“At a time when the Texas Supreme Court is considering a lower court ruling that found the state’s school finance system unconstitutional, these figures tell a shameful story,” said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. “For too many years, our students have been forced to wait while our governors and the legislative majority have shortchanged them by refusing to invest wisely in their schools and our future.”

“Meanwhile, students and educators are forced to overcome the consequences of overcrowded classrooms, inadequate textbooks and outdated technology. They deserve a greater commitment from state leaders,” Candelaria added.