# **Legislative Update**

September 13, 2022 Prepared for the Denton ISD Board of Trustees

# **Mission Statement**

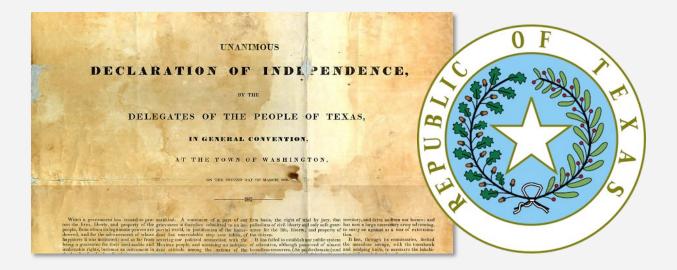
Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community. We will advocate for public education across the state and nation.

In pursuit of excellence...

"A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

> The Texas Constitution Article 7, Section 1

Texans have long been concerned about the education of their children. The Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 listed the failure of the Mexican government **"to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources..."** among the reasons for severing political ties with Mexico.



https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/welcome-and-overview/an-overview-of-the-history-of-public-education-in-texas



#### Denton Independent School District 2021 Legislative Priorities Summary

Mission Statement: Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.

#### Our MISSION is measured by five GUIDING STATEMENTS of OUTCOMES:

- 1. Our faculty and staff are recognized and appreciated.
- 2. Our students are reading on grade level by the end of the 3rd grade.
- 3. Our 9th grade students are mastering Algebra I.
- 4. Our students are engaged in extra and co-curricular activities.
- 5. Our graduates are meeting the College and Career Readiness Standards.

#### In pursuit of these outcomes we advocate for legislation which:

- 1. Supports legislation making public education funding a priority and protects House Bill 3.
- 2. Supports full funding for the expansion of high-quality Pre-Kindergarten programs state-wide.
- Supports legislation to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children and teachers.
- 4. Supports an assessment and accountability system that values student growth and achievement over standardized, high-stakes one day testing.
- 5. Supports adaptive and creative local solutions for recruiting and retaining high guality educators in our school districts.
- Supports legislation minimizing the diversion of public funds for vouchers, tax credits, education savings grants, or any other funding mechanisms diverting funds to private schools.
- Supports legislation recognizing the needs of rapidly growing districts, of districts in areas of the state with low property values, and supports legislation to design a school finance system to provide adequate and equitable resources.
- 8. Supports governance allowing for local control of the school district.
- Supports the ability for local taxpayers to preserve their right to involvement in state policy making by maintaining the ability to have lobbyists serve and lobby for taxpayers.

#### **2021 Legislative Priorities**

#### School Finance:

Supports legislation making public education funding a priority.

Advocates for the state to fulfill its promise and make appropriate budget appropriations to assure long-term sustainability to House Bill 3 (86th Session) so that this legislation may have a long-term meaningful impact on student achievement to promote educational excellence for all Texas students. Denton ISD advocates for truth in taxation as it relates to the implications of rising property values and the corresponding decline in state funding for public education. School funding issues have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 panelmenic and additional costs borne by local school districts.

#### Funding for High-Quality Pre-K Programs:

Supports full funding for the expansion of high-quality Pre-K programs state-wide.

Research indicates the greatest opportunity to impact achievement gaps and improve outcomes for all students over their lifetime is to provide students access to a high-quality Pre-K program. Denton ISD strongly encourages comprehensive legislative support to bring these youngest students into the public education system.

#### Mental Health and School Safety:

Supports legislation to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children and teachers, such as a state-funded organizational framework that will create a network of effective support in our public schools to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children and teachers.

Students and educators must feel safe and be mentally healthy in order to learn and meet their full potential. Students are experiencing greater anxiety, fear, depression, and a lack of coping skills; school counselors, social workers and school psychologists across the nation are seeing an increase in suicide ideation. The academic needs of students cannot be separated from their social, emotional, and behavioral needs and vice-versa. The Covid-19 pandemic has made teacher, employee and student mental health a predominant concern of local School districts.

#### Assessment and Accountability:

Supports an assessment and accountability system that values student growth and achievement over standardized, high-stakes one day testing.

Advocates for the establishment of a comprehensive accountability system that looks beyond high-stakes, multiple-hoice exams to meaningful assessments that have value for students, parents, and teachers, as well as measures what each community deems important in promoting college and career readiness. Denton ISD opposes A-F ratings which do not accurately reflect school efficacy and often exaggerates school inequity. In addition, suspending the statewide testing during the Covid-19 pandemic would allow school districts and teachers to focus on providing the best possible instruction to students rather than focusing on STAAR testing.

#### **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

Supports adaptive and creative local solutions for recruiting and retaining high quality educators in our school districts.

Denton ISO supports legislation that will help elevate the teaching profession by incentivizing education degrees and providing additional funding for TRS Care and ActiveCare, along with insuring defined retirement benefits for teachers through TRS. Staffing shortages have become exacerbated by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Charter Schools, School Choice, and Vouchers:**

Supports legislation that minimizes the diversion of public funds for vouchers, tax credits, education savings grants, or any other funding mechanisms diverting funds to private schools.

Opposes the fiscal waste of maintaining two separate educational systems. Supports equity in providing educational options to all students, regardless of socio-economic status. Students and parents often have the ability to choose among public schools. Texas should not allow charter expansion into areas served by high-performing schools. Denton ISD supports the requirement that all public accountability and transparency provisions be equally applied to charter schools thereby enabling a more efficient and equitable public charter school system. In particular, during a time when the state has limited funding and additional costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the state should not waste funds on a dual education system.

#### Facilities Funding:

Supports legislation that recognizes the needs of rapidly growing districts, of districts in areas of the state with low property values, and supports legislation to design a school finance system to provide adequate and equitable resources.

Denton ISD is categorized as a destination, Fast Growth School District. Many districts have large amounts of deferred maintenance due to the cumulative impact of historically imadequate school finance and debt funding formulas. In addition, Denton ISD advocates for legislation which will secure future funding for the New instructional Facilities Allotment.

#### Local Control/Governance and Taxation:

Supports governance allowing for local control of the school district.

Local control allows decision making to occur in collaboration with local taxpayers, parents, students, communities and constituents. Given the transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act, Denton ISD advocates for increased opportunities for school districts to implement local initiatives such as Districts of Innovation, and for prevention of measures that reduce or remove governance of districts from locally elected school boards. Denton ISD advocates for innovations in school district taxing authority allowing local school trustees more flexibility to raise and lower taxes within voter-approved limits. Denton ISD lurther supports any legislation which would diminis the tremendous burden of unfunded mandates placed upon local districts. During the Govid-19 pandemic, the ability to make local decisions has been particularly hampered as districts were challenged by ever-changing audiance from the state.

#### Taxpayer Advocacy:

Supports the ability for local taxpayers to preserve their right to involvement in state policy making by maintaining the ability to have lobbyists serve and lobby for taxpayers.

Denton ISD recognizes that ensuring that state elected officials are provided with correct information directly from constituent organizations has saved the state of Texas and local school districts millions of dollars over the years. Accordingly, Denton ISD opposes any legislation which would allow only special interest groups and for-profit organizations the ability to access lawmakers and the law-making process. Denton ISD continues to advocate on behalf of local taxpayers, parents, students, communities, and constituents. During this Covid-19 pandemic, it has become even more important for the state to understand the challenges faced at the local level.

#### Contacts:

- · Superintendent of Denton ISD Dr. Jamie Wilson: jwilson@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0002
- General Legislative Priorities for Denton ISD Dr. Gwen Perkins, Area Superintendent of Academic Programs: gperkins@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0078 and Deron Robinson, General Counsel: drobinson2@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0036
- Charter Schools and Vouchers Deron Robinson, General Counsel: drobinson2@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0036
- School Finance Dr. Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer: jniven@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0010
- School Safety Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent of Academic Programs: jrussell2@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0039
- Social and Emotional Learning Rebekah De Peo-Christner, Coordinator of Social and Emotional Learning: rdepeochristner@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0595
- Pre-K Programs Dr. Lacey Rainey, Area Superintendent of Academic Programs: Irainey@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0571
- Testing and Accountability Lyneille Meza, Director of Data and Assessment: Imeza@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0687
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Jason Rainey, Executive Director of Professional Personnel: jrainey@dentonisd.org, 940-369-0048

# **Upcoming Legislative Dates**



# **Legislative Priorities**



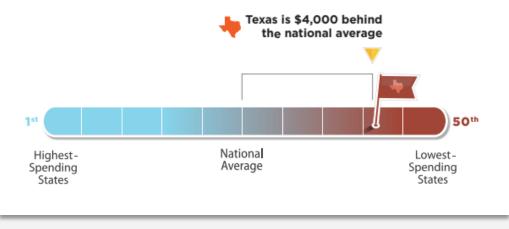
# School Finance, Local Control, & Taxpayer Advocacy

## **Money Matters**

A high-quality and well-funded public education system is essential to help every child reach their full potential.

Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states in per-student funding, with student population that is over 60 percent low socioeconomic.

# Even after 2019, Texas Still Ranks in the Bottom 10 for Per-Pupil Spending



https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WhereWeStand\_RollFold\_Final-2.pdf

**Big Moves:** The largest fund balance in Texas' history — \$44 billion — is projected for the state by the end of fiscal year 2023.

The balance is the remaining funds after accounting for all current appropriations, incoming revenues and carry-over fund balances.

**The Source:** As Texas' economy has bounced back, we've had recordbreaking sales tax revenue. Plus, we saw greater tax collections on oil and natural gas as demand increased this year. The \$44 billion includes:

- Texas' general revenue fund (\$27 billion)
- Remaining recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (\$3 billion)
- Economic stabilization fund, a.k.a. the rainy day fund (\$14 billion)

https://texas2036.org/posts/spending-priorities-texas-historic-fund-balance/

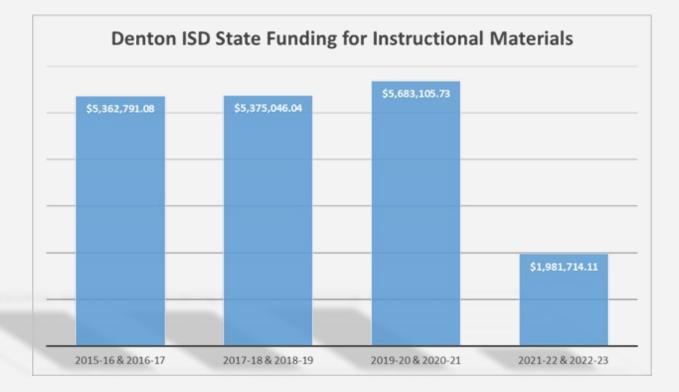
#### **Impact to Denton ISD**

Denton stands to lose \$7 million at the end of 2024 when House Bill 3 formula transitions and the current grant ends.

We would need our hold harmless to be extended or basic allotment to be increased by at least \$160.



# **Decreased Funding**



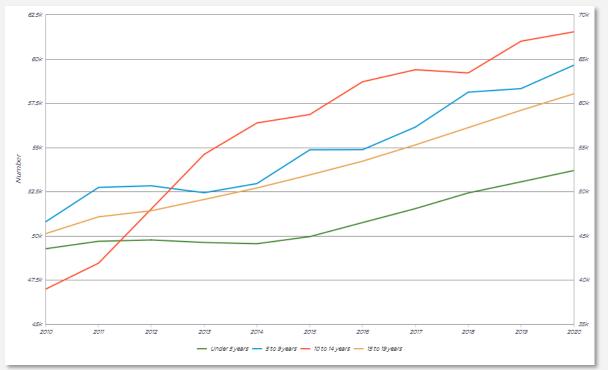
#### From the TEA regarding decreased funding for instructional materials:

"You will notice that the 2022–2023 allotment is lower than it has been in previous years. The legislature reduced the allotment to more closely match the projected costs of Proclamation 2021 and Proclamation 2022 instructional materials for prekindergarten systems, health, and physical education; however, they did indicate their intention to increase future allotments to more closely align with previous allocations. In addition to the allotment, the legislature appropriated additional funds through House Bill (HB) 1525 and HB 4545, 87th Texas Legislature, to support accelerated learning, academic supports, and accelerated learning policy."

https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/instructional-materialsand-technology-allotment-for-fiscal-years-2022-and-2023

#### **Growth in Denton**

#### School Age Children in Denton County 2010-2020



https://datalab.texas2036.org/

## Local Control & Taxpayer Advocacy

Ten Year Forecast by Elementary Campus													
	HISTORY Fail ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS												
Campus Name	Capacity	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2030/3
Alexander Elementary School	740	580	600	592	600	613	621	636	650	654	669	681	692
Adkins Elementary School	740	435	444	454	474	495	487	513	513	517	520	514	511
Bell Elementary School	740	653	714	718	715	717	713	713	716	718	724	733	738
Blanton Elementary School	740	479	492	504	508	512	514	520	517	515	515	524	534
Borman Elementary School	740	434	432	430	473	587	742	879	1,013	1,151	1,284	1,401	1,518
Cross Oaks Elementary School	740	668	720	728	730	756	772	786	799	803	802	813	813
E P Rayzor Elementary School	740	311	310	313	306	305	310	319	322	333	341	350	359
Evers Park Elementary School	740	543	621	680	771	827	925	996	1,004	1,023	1,049	1,087	1,117
Ginnings Elementary School	740	583	665	717	752	778	812	822	818	803	792	783	774
Hodge Elementary School	740	618	658	680	737	828	905	1,014	1,057	1,087	1,126	1,172	1,195
Sam Houston Elementary School	740	530	532	534	537	540	568	563	568	573	585	594	609
Nelson Elementary School	740	577	569	553	579	576	595	594	607	616	608	611	615
McNair Elementary School	740	534	533	515	511	542	550	562	565	573	576	592	609
Hawk Elementary School	740	568	595	582	598	589	571	613	622	632	634	649	660
Olive Stephens Elementary School	740	379	421	487	556	626	701	771	777	782	786	801	813
Paloma Creek Elementary School	740	648	685	718	742	785	843	858	885	904	915	936	953
Pecan Creek Elementary School	740	643	663	658	664	657	666	673	668	662	663	653	651
Providence Elementary School	740	554	656	760	889	1,025	1,134	1,242	1,289	1,339	1,393	1,454	1,514
Newton Rayzor Elementary School	740	614	632	640	644	641	653	663	670	677	682	686	683
Rivera Elementary School	740	540	625	673	691	706	756	777	754	743	743	738	728
Sandbrock Ranch Elementary School	740	0	0	631	789	855	944	995	1,052	1,102	1,166	1,212	1,256
Savannah Elementary School	740	641	778	807	843	868	860	879	879	871	871	856	847
Ryan Elementary School	740	544	560	561	587	585	578	570	603	637	670	709	734
Union Park Elementary School	740	727	962	649	801	849	885	900	961	1,027	1,092	1,131	1,168
Schultz Elementary School	740	567	642	669	684	703	725	744	737	739	746	737	740
Ann Windle School For Young Child	740	252	307	344	358	374	388	404	420	431	436	447	457
Gonzalez School For Young Child	740	248	270	333	347	363	377	393	409	420	425	436	446
ELEMENTARY TOTALS	19,980	13,870	15,086	15,929	16,885	17,699	18,595	19,402	19,875	20,333	20,810	21,304	21,733
Elementary Absolute Change		-631	1,216	843	956	815	895	807	473	458	477	493	429
Elementary Percent Change		-4.35%	8.77%	5.59%	6.00%	4.82%	5.06%	4.34%	2.44%	2.30%	2.35%	2.37%	2.01%

% Zonda.

Yellow box = over capacity

### Local Control & Taxpayer Advocacy



#### Ten Year Forecast by Secondary Campus

CAMP	US LEVEL	S LEVEL ENROLLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS											
		HISTORY	Fall		ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
Campus Name	Capacity	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2030/32
Calhoun Middle School	1,268	664	700	712	701	768	772	818	859	958	1,016	1,043	1,078
McMath Middle School	1,181	804	812	795	790	812	810	880	924	1,036	1,094	1,171	1,232
Navo Middle School	1,181	1,025	1,063	1,124	1,191	1,301	1,363	1,478	1,514	1,544	1,553	1,573	1,592
Crownover Middle School	1,181	874	813	820	732	771	755	777	745	739	782	793	804
Strickland Middle School	1,334	901	975	992	1,012	1,025	1,051	1,101	1,191	1,269	1,336	1,361	1,388
Harpool Middle School	1,181	875	867	818	798	769	795	781	820	813	853	844	851
Rodriguez Middle School	1,323	961	988	1,070	1,186	1,352	1,500	1,661	1,796	1,904	1,990	2,049	2,083
Bette Myers Middle School	1,323	880	834	822	822	883	924	946	1,006	1,091	1,149	1,133	1,135
MIDDLE SCHOOL TOTALS	9,972	6,984	7,052	7,153	7,232	7,681	7,970	8,442	8,855	9,354	9,773	9,967	10,163
Middle School Absolute Change		-139	68	101	79	449	289	472	413	499	419	194	196
Middle School Percent Change		-1.95%	0.97%	1.43%	1.10%	6.21%	3.76%	5.92%	4.89%	5.64%	4.48%	1.99%	1.97%
Braswell High School	3,350	2,446	2,728	3,020	3,173	3,351	3,523	3,701	4,029	4,433	4,736	5,043	5,300
Denton High School	2,460	2,023	1,924	1,996	2,046	2,069	2,113	2,116	2,176	2,180	2,295	2,458	2,600
Fred Moore High School		68	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
John Guyer High School	3,200	2,621	2,626	2,597	2,617	2,521	2,478	2,376	2,317	2,345	2,292	2,382	2,397
Ryan High School	2,340	2,197	2,226	2,286	2,364	2,370	2,360	2,380	2,443	2,491	2,580	2,782	2,926
The LaGrone Academy		0	202	237	237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HIGH SCHOOL TOTALS	11,350	9,355	9,762	10,192	10,493	10,367	10,530	10,629	11,021	11,505	11,959	12,721	13,279
High School Absolute Change		185	407	430	301	-126	163	99	392	484	454	762	558
High School Percent Change		2.02%	4.35%	4.41%	2.95%	-1.20%	1.57%	0.94%	3.69%	4.39%	3.95%	6.37%	4.39%
Denton J J A E P		8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Juvenile Detention CTR		43	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Lester Davis School		7	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL TOTALS		58	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106
DISTRICT TOTALS	41,302	30,267	32,006	33,380	34,716	35,853	37,201	38,579	39,857	41,298	42,648	44,098	45,281
District Absolute Change		-641	1,739	1,374	1,336	1,137	1,347	1,378	1,278	1,441	1,350	1,449	1,183
District Percent Change		-2.1%	5.7%	4.3%	4.0%	3.3%	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%	3.6%	3.3%	3.4%	2.7%

Yellow box = over capacity



# School Safety & Mental Health Resources

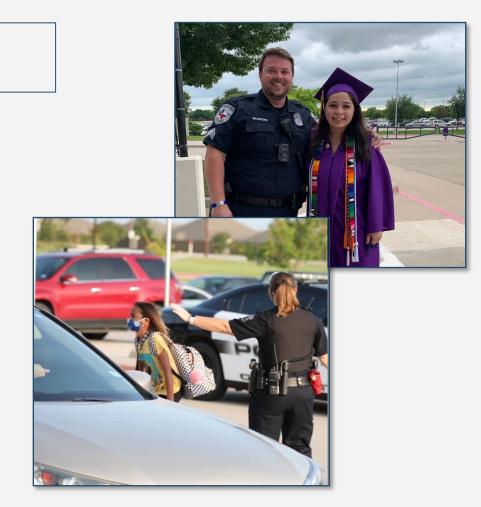
# **School Safety**

Our current year school safety allotment is budgeted at \$304,722. (\$9.82 weight per budgeted ADA 31,350)

School Resource Officers serving Denton ISD:

- 9 SROs, 1 Lt in Denton
- 1 Denton County Sherriff
- 1 Corinth SRO
- 6 SROs from Little Elm

Total cost: \$1,446,334



#### **Mental Health in Students**



#### **Mental Health in Students**

Texas is ranked 41st in overall child well-being, including indicators related to economic status, education, health, and certain family and community traits.



Approximately one in six school-aged youth experiences impairments in life functioning, including impacts on academic achievement, due to mental illness. The number of students experiencing mental illness increases as young people grow older.

Outside of the student's home, schools are the most likely place where mental health concerns will be detected. Fortunately, the earlier mental health concerns are detected and addressed, the more likely a student is to avoid the onset and/or progression of mental illness. Many times, signs of deteriorating mental health are noticeable well before a mental illness emerges.

https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/mental-health/mental-health-and-behavioral-health https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WhereWeStand\_RollFold\_Final-2.pdf

# **Charter School** Accountability & **Opposition to Vouchers**

# **Charter School Funding**

Charter schools and traditional schools should be held to the same high standards while serving all students in their communities.

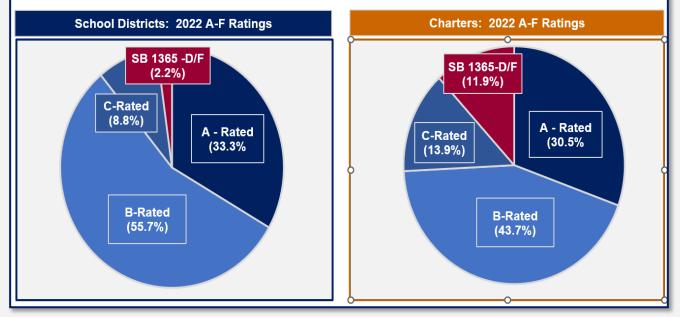
Charter schools were founded on the promise of fostering locally developed, innovative approaches to educating children, especially with our most at-risk students. Some charter schools remain true to this vision. Unfortunately, for many Texas communities, the rapid expansion of charter schools has resulted in taxpayer inefficiencies, unequal access for students, and a parallel system of publicly funded schools.



Charter schools receive more than **\$1,100 per student** in additional funding and have fewer regulations compared with neighboring urban and suburban district schools.

#### **Charter School Ratings**

School Districts and Charters – A-F Ratings: For the 2021/22 school year, standard accountability school districts outperformed standard accountability charters based upon TEA's academic accountability rating system. In comparison to charters, 14.8% more school districts earned academic ratings of A or B. In addition, only 2.2% of school districts received SB1365-D/F ratings, while 11.9% of charters received SB1365-D/F ratings.



Mesirow summary with information published by the TEA Accountability Ratings and txschools.gov

#### **Vouchers & Texas Schools**

Vouchers are taxpayer-funded government subsidies for private schools and vendors with no accountability for results. Vouchers reduce fair access to educational opportunity, weaken rights for students with disabilities, and expose taxpayers to fraud. Instead, the state should strengthen investments in public schools, the only system with the capacity to educate the large and diverse student population of Texas.

#### WHICH OPTION OFFERS CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

A comparison of district schools, charter schools and private school vouchers

	Public Schools	Private School Vouchers
Required to accept all students	~	х
Require annual assessment aligned to state curriculum to track student progress	~	x
Reporting and accountability for use of public funds	~	x
Public reporting and accountability for student performance	~	x
Require closure or state management for multiple years of low performance	~	x
Comply with federal protections for students with disabilities	✓	×

# Staff Recruitment and Retention

## **Teacher Retention**



The quality of our education system and the long-term viability of our economy are inextricably linked to the effectiveness and diversity of our teachers.

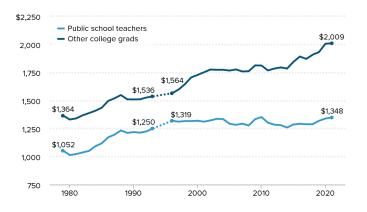
Inadequate pay and a lack of respect for teachers have caused fewer young people to enter the teaching profession in recent years. Compounding this challenge are the need for better teacher preparation and less reliance on alternative certification programs.

https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WhereWeStand\_RollFold\_Final-2.pdf

#### **Teacher Pay**

#### Teachers' weekly wages have remained relatively flat for 25 years

Average weekly wages of public school teachers and other college graduates, 1979–2021



Notes: Figure shows average weekly wages (2021\$) of public school teachers (elementary, middle, and secondary) and other college graduate (nonteacher) peers. Data points for 1994 and 1995 are unavailable; dotted lines represent interpolated data. See Allegretto and Mishel 2019, Appendix A, for more details on data and methodology.

Source: Author's analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data accessed via the EPI Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.29 (EPI 2022a), https://microdata.epi.org.

Economic Policy Institute

## Teachers earn 23.5% less than comparable college graduates

Public school teacher weekly wage penalty (or premium) for all teachers and by gender, 1979–2021



Notes: Figure shows regression-adjusted weekly wage penalties (or premiums) for public school teachers (elementary, middle, and secondary) relative to their college-educated, nonteaching peers. Data points for 1994 and 1995 are unavailable; dotted lines represent interpolated data. See Allegretto and Mishel 2019, Appendix A, for more details on data and methodology.

Source: Author's analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data accessed via the EPI Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.29 (EPI 2022a), https://microdata.epi.org.

**Economic Policy Institute** 

https://www.epi.org/publication/teacher-pay-penalty-2022/

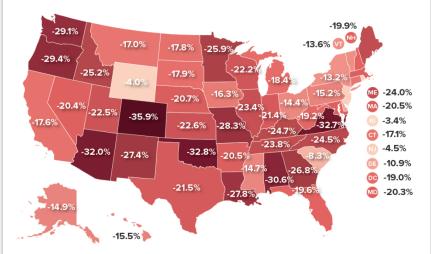
# **Teacher Pay**

#### **Key Findings:**

- Inflation-adjusted average weekly wages of teachers have been relatively flat since 1996.
- The relative teacher wage penalty grew to a record high in 2021.
- The benefits advantage for teachers has not been enough to offset the growing wage penalty.
- The relative teacher wage penalty exceeds 20% in 28 states.

#### How underpaid are teachers in your state?

Depending on the state, teachers make between 3.4% and 35.9% less than other comparable college-educated workers



**Notes:** Figure shows state-specific regression-adjusted weekly wage penalties for public school teachers (elementary, middle, and secondary) relative to their college-educated, nonteaching peers. See Allegretto and Mishel 2019, Appendix A, for more details on data and methodology.

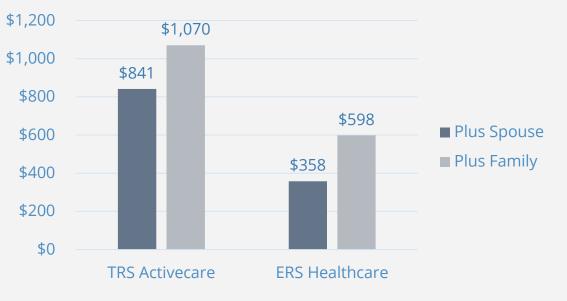
**Source:** Author's analysis of pooled 2016–2021 Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data accessed via the EPI Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.29 (EPI 2022a), https://microdata.epi.org.

**Economic Policy Institute** 

https://www.epi.org/publication/teacher-pay-penalty-2022/

# **TRS Activecare vs ERS Healthcare**

# 2022-2023 Monthly Premium Rates







#### **Monthly Difference -**

Plus Spouse: \$483 more expensive

Plus Family: \$472 more expensive

#### **Annual Difference -**

Plus Spouse: \$5,796 more expensive

Plus Family: \$5,664 more expensive

# Reduced Testing

P

8,

9

B

19

a

3

EA.

a

# **Testing and Accountability**

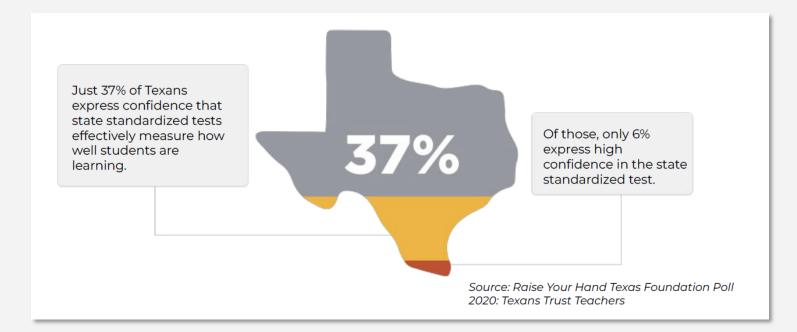
The state's accountability (A-F) system is disproportionately based on a single end-of-year test that does not adequately consider a student's academic growth. Additionally, it is the only measure of accountability ratings in grades 3-8.



https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WhereWeStand\_RollFold\_Final-2.pdf

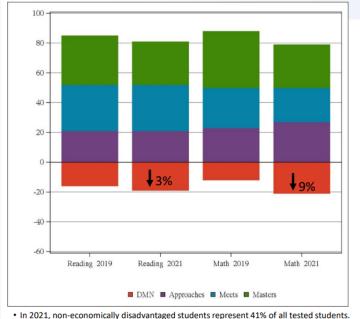
#### **Texas are Skeptical of STAAR**

Before COVID-19, the STAAR test was widely unpopular with parents, educators, lawmakers, and students.



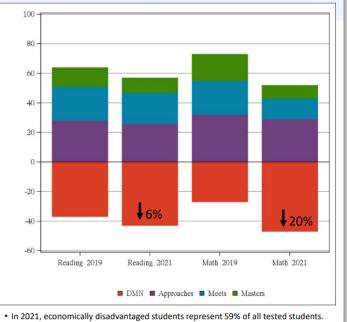
#### 2021 STAAR Testing Analysis

Non-Economically Disadvantaged vs.



87% of non-economically disadvantaged students tested.

Economically Disadvantaged



• 86% of economically disadvantaged students tested.

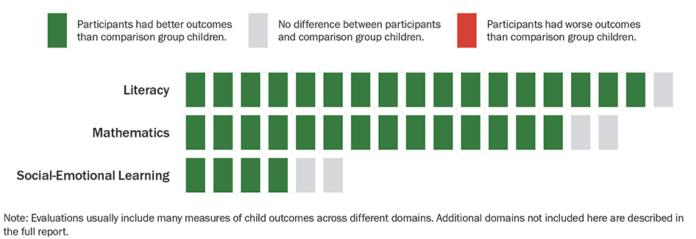
https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2021-staar-analysis-presentation.pdf

# **D** Quality Pre-K Programs

## **Quality Pre-K Programs**

#### Figure 1 Impacts of Preschool at School Entry

Each box represents a separate evaluation of a preschool program.



https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/untangling-evidence-preschool-effectiveness-brief



