

What's Wrong with Public Education in Texas?

The Top Ten List

The following is a list of some of the problems with the public education system in Texas. The list is comprised of issues that are not commonly considered by most taxpayers. To be completely fair a list of benefits could be put together that are easily recognized. The point of this list is to point out the major problems that must be addressed very soon before the current system and structure in place brings down the financial system in Texas and across the US. A total financial collapse is ahead, and the time is running out for taxpayers and homeowners to develop a plan to navigate through some very rough waters ahead.



Danger Bridge Out Ahead!

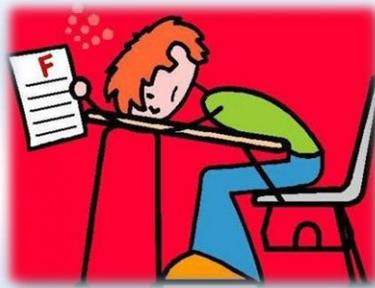
1. The system is outdated. The current design and process of delivering education is no longer the only source or method available to parents. The resources and technology readily available today offers a wide range and access to a much higher level of learning for students.

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2. The cost of education as delivered in its current configuration is out of control. For the past twenty years in Texas a simple question has been asked; how much does it cost to educate a fifth grader in Texas? The question has not been answered at this time. The ad-valorem system of taxing personal property to fund the education system in Texas has been broken from the day it was passed by the legislature. Below are just a few examples of what is wrong with the current system.
 - a. Home and property owners who never had a child in the system are held hostage to the system and forced to pay school taxes in which they receive no measurable and tangible benefit from.
 - b. The cost to educate a single child is unknown. Example: Let us assume it costs \$12,000.00 a year per student across the state of Texas.
 - i. If a homeowner has one child attending the public school system, the cost would be \$12,000.00 for the parents who pays into the system via property taxes.
 - ii. If a homeowner and family has four children attending the public school system, it would not be out of reason to expect that family to pay \$48,000.00 for the cost of education if the burden were administered fairly and uniform.
 - iii. Both homeowners without any children and one with a single child is penalized financially by being forced to cover the cost for children they are not their own.
 - c. The increasing rise in property taxes is causing innocent homeowners to lose their homes by funding a system they do not even have children attending.
 - d. The cost of education must be the responsibility of the parents solely. This will restore financial and academic accountability.

3. Lack of academic accountability. By the time major problems are exposed in a school district many years have passed. Those children in attendance during years of failed academic levels are exposed to subpar teaching and opportunity for learning at the time they need the best education available to them. Example: Connally ISD in Texas had five years of failing “F” ratings before the Texas Education Agency took action. Parents of those children who attended the district during the five-year period have no recourse or way to recover any financial compensation with the current system.



The system failed me!

4. The current system and structure stifles the learning and growth of those students who excel in academic achievement. Many smart and self-motivated students need access to mentors and the job market much sooner so they can begin their journey to being self-reliant and successful and not held back by a system by design that holds them back just to receive a piece of paper that has no bearing on what know and have learned.
5. Ad-valorem taxation on personal property is unconstitutional. It violates the parents right to choose the best option for their children without any financial ties or restrictions to the government-controlled system. Taxpayers who do not have any children or their children did not attend public school have been penalized unfairly financially. Those parents who paid for their children’s education are punished for being responsible parents and financially responsible and accountable. This is one of the key points to the federal court cases being pursued.

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6. There is no direct line or connection between the value of a home and the cost of an education. This is fundamental problem and key point in the legal challenges being brought forward at the federal court level.
7. The current system of ad-valorem taxation is not delivered fairly by school district officials and discriminates against taxpayers and homeowners based on social status. School boards have failed to treat citizens fairly under the uniform and equal clause of the US Constitution. This problem is being addressed in the court cases being pursued at the federal court level against school board members who failed to treat taxpayers fairly within their respective school district(s).
8. School superintendents and board members have failed to represent taxpayers fairly regarding financial matters such as annual school budgets and bond referendums. They have failed to uphold the law and the Texas and US Constitution they have sworn to follow.
9. School officials and board or trustees have chosen “Big Business” over the rights and financial well-being of taxpayers within their respective district(s). School districts that have executed lucrative tax abatement agreements with big business and subsidized their operations by forfeiting locally available tax revenues are being exposed in the cases being filed at the federal court level. This includes what were known as Chapter 313 Agreements and now JETI Agreements (Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovations Act) in Texas.
10. Many employers are looking for young adults with sound character traits, morals and ethical values as well as having achieved a high level of academic achievement. Young adults that received an education from the private sector or were homeschooled are hand-picked for many reasons and highly sought after.