

Updated Version!!-12/11/2025



Why the School Funding System Has Never Worked in Texas

Due to very large interest and comments from the first release of this document I have made this revision to help explain the problems that have been exposed with the current funding system. It is apparent there is still a great number of citizens and taxpayers that still do not understand why their property taxes have sky-rocketed over the past decade. They also do not understand the basic fundamental flaws within the ad-valorem taxation system in place. The following bullet list may help readers better understand more clearly the problems and issues that have been exposed.

- The basic fundamentals of financing the current system were never vetted against a real cash-flow model or common business practices.
- The current system created a system that caused the parents of children to relinquish and shed their financial responsibilities over to the government run system.
- It created a system and environment where basic tenants of child development including moral and character development were turned over to the government. The outcome has been generations of young children and adults that do not know how to integrate into society and a decline in family values and structure.
- The REAL cost to educate a single child is unknown. The cost per child that have been published by numerous state resources and data bases are based on speculation at best.
- Depending on which published data base you refer to the cost to educate a child in Texas ranges from \$9000.00 to \$17,000.00 dollars. This is roughly \$13,000.00 per child as used in Table 1. Below.

Commonsenselaw.org

2025-All Rights Reserved

- The cost per child whatever it is deemed to be is not being paid by the parents and households in which these children live in the majority of households.
- The local property taxes collected as high as they currently are do not cover the assumed cost per child as published by the state and local school districts. Table 1 below presents this very clearly. All property taxes collected from the homes in the example do not cover the presumed average cost per child of \$13,000.00
- A very large percentage of the cost (burden) is placed on citizens and homeowners that do not have children in the public school system.
- The public system receives money from other sources that most citizens and homeowners do not understand. These other sources are derived from the city, state and federal levels which are collected via those citizens who are working and receive a paycheck in which state and federal taxes are collected. This further highlights the cost of education in Texas is out of control.
- In Table 1. Below all the local property taxes collected from the three household examples shown fall short of meeting the assumed average \$13,000.00 per child value that has been published by the state and public-school officials.
- To make things very clear the system and debt of the public education system monster is not sustainable. The cost must be brought down, and it must be the sole responsibility of parents while their children are of school age. Once a parent has funded their children's through high-school and college if they do desire to pursue a higher level of education, they are through paying for education.
- The State of Texas and local school board superintendents and trustees have violated the rights of citizens and taxpayers for decades as enumerated in the US Constitution. This is why taxpayers are filing legal challenges in federal court and holding those individuals accountable for their actions.
- Over the past five decades every attempt lawmakers have made by creating and passing band aide approaches to a very flawed system from the beginning.
- The current system in Texas is nothing short of a socialist and communist system that has been levied against citizens and that has violated multiple tenants of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

- The current system violates ALL fundamental and basic laws of a true capitalist free market system of business and commerce. It penalizes hard working responsible parents who choose to fund the education of their children outside of the corrupt government run public education system.
- True financial and academic accountability must be restored, and it must be enforced solely by the parents who are paying for the cost to educate their children. The government factor must be removed the process completely.

The current system of ad-valorem taxation on personal property never worked from the very beginning in Texas. It was never vetted through the eyes of sound financial practices and fundamentals. It was a flawed idea from the very beginning. Over the decades it has morphed into a tangled web of schemes and tactics enacted and put worth by ignorant and foolish politicians trying to protect their political futures or line their pockets from special interest groups.

For over thirty years I have been at work to expose the school funding Ponzi scheme perpetrated by political elitist and taxpayer funded lobbyist groups. The following information has been collected and assembled in a very clear and precise manner to present the facts to the general public who have been hood-winked by elected leaders at every level in Texas.

To begin with elected leaders and public-school officials in the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the State Board of Education (SBOE) and at every local school district have taken every measure possible to prevent taxpayers from gaining access to information that has been requested by written requests in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Records Act in Texas. It does not take very long to figure out the math does not work when trying to figure out how much it cost to educate a child in Texas. For over twenty years this very simple question has been asked, *“how much does it cost to educate a fifth grader in Texas”*? To date this question has not been answered and school superintendents and board of trustees have refused to answer it. This if for very good reasons if you’re a public-school employee.

The amount of money taken in by the system from homeowners on average falls way short of meeting the dollars needed to educate a child based on the average cost according to information found on various data bases. The problem is none of these values have actually been vetted and audited for accuracy. The numbers have been “cooked” to make it appear the system is legit when in fact there is nothing legitimate about at all.

Table 1 below will provide a very clear financial perspective of what has been wrong with the school funding system in Texas for decades.

Tax Rate Per 100.00/Valuation>	\$ 1.25		
Standard Homestead Exemption>	\$ 140,000.00		
Average Cost to Educate a Child Attending Public School in Texas	\$ 13,000.00		
Homeowners Less than 65 Years of Age	Family A	Family B	Family C
Assessed Home Values per CAD>	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Number of Children in School>	1	0	4
Assumed Total Cost to Educate Children in Each Home Based on Average Cost Per Child in Public School in Texas	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -	\$ 52,000.00
School Property Taxes Assessed	\$ 3,875.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 2,000.00
Deficit Per Family to Meet the Assumed Cost of Education Per Child	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 50,000.00
New School Voucher Amount Per Child with Gregg Abbott's New Voucher Program	\$ 10,000.00		
	Family A	Family B	Family C
Voucher Dollars Available to Parents for Their Children Removed from the Public School System in Texas	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
Deficit Per Family with Voucher Program Implemented	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 38,000.00

The challenge regarding school funding is not to be steered in the wrong direction by politicians and public-school officials who want to “tickle” the ears of naïve citizens and taxpayers. You have to train yourself and mind to keep the eye on the ball when it comes to understanding the out-of-control costs of the public school system and the declining academic

Commonsenselaw.org

achievement levels that have been reported for over two decades. New-fangled ideas of teaching and testing methods as everyone knows have resulted in a further decline in academic levels in many districts across the state.

For decades, the state and taxpayers have poured billions of dollars into the public school system and as each year goes by public school officials are asking for more money. Throwing more money is not and has not been the solution. There are basically two major problems with the current system and that is a total lack of accountability from a financial and academic perspective. The first place one must look and with a complete open mind and view is simply, *“who is responsible for educating one’s children”*? This is where the train leaves the tracks. For over one-hundred fifty years Americans have shifted the burden of being responsible parents to someone else. Whether it be the government or the public school system parents are not taking full responsibility for their children and this is especially true in regard to education and this is where things start to get heated up around the dinner table or in the general public.



Politicians, there only lying when their lips are moving!

On one hand you have tens of thousands of homeowners who cannot afford year after year increases in property taxes but choose to send their children to the public school system that is bankrupting families as each day passes by in Texas. On the other hand, you have public leaders and the pro-public education machine telling parents the system will take this burden off your shoulders but without telling them the truth about what it is really costing them in the long run.

The best example I have produced to explain the problem with the current system from a Cost and Return on Investment (ROI) view is this. Anything a person spends money on should be vetted based on its cost and what you are getting in return for your hard-earned money. If I wanted a good steak for dinner and I know of a good restaurant that served really great steaks, I would be willing to spend the amount money they are asking. This is standard practice for most individuals. If I did not want the best steak available and found one less expensive it is my choice to go and spend the money based on my expectations.



“Bon Appetit”

With the current funding mechanism and process to fund the public education system in Texas parents and homeowners are forced to pay into a system that is mediocre to say the least but cost far more than what it should cost for what taxpayers are getting in return for their money.

The *REAL* school choice system would simply work by letting parents send their children to whatever school or system they choose and keeping the government completely out of their back pockets. There should be no illegal forced taxation on personal property period. It should be one hundred percent based on true parental choice and control. This would create the best value for your money and create an environment of higher academic standards and achievement based on the amount learning a child retains at the end of each school year. Parents could then make adjustments and changes as needed to ensure their children are getting the best education possible. Every parent and child can exercise the true freedom and liberty by being completely in charge and responsible. It almost sounds too good to be true but in fact is what is needed immediately to prevent the financial collapse of thousands of homeowners and taxpayers.

Giving parents, homeowners, and taxpayers the fundamental right to make these decisions themselves and keeping the hands of crooked politicians and public educators out of their pockets drives those in charge into a crazy maddening frenzy. Just attend a few school board meetings and find out just how much the public education cares about your rights as a homeowner and taxpayer.