

How your Schools are Funded



Where Does the Money Come From?

Local Property Tax

State Funds



Property taxes are a major source of funding for your schools. Your school district levies a tax on your property to help fund your neighborhood public schools.

For most districts in Texas, state tax dollars are another major source of money. They are sent to schools to support their programs.

Compared to state and local funds, very little actually comes from the federal budget in Washington, D.C. Federal dollars help support programs, like free and reduced-price lunches, technology, bilingual education, and special education.

Federal Funds

**How is the
Money Spent?**

Staff

Accounts for 80% of school expenditures and covers: salaries and benefits for teachers, principals & administrators

Materials & Supplies

Includes books, paper, computers, supplies, etc.


Utilities

Includes electricity, water, etc.

Buildings

Includes maintenance & construction





**School Spending:
Who Decides What?**

School Personnel

- Superintendents
- School boards
- Site-based decision making teams
- Principals
- Teachers

1. School personnel – especially the superintendent and the school board – make major budget decisions

**School
Budget**

**State & Federal
Policymakers**

2. Policymakers make laws and rules that determine how much money is available for education and how it should be spent for the different programs offered in your school.

Community

- Parents
- Businesses
- Contractors

3. There are opportunities for community groups to influence how much the state invests in education and how school funds are used.

The relationship between parents, schools and community members with state policymakers is key to ensuring that our tax dollars are used to fund schools fairly. Our children deserve to get the best education possible.



Strengthening schools to work for all children

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