

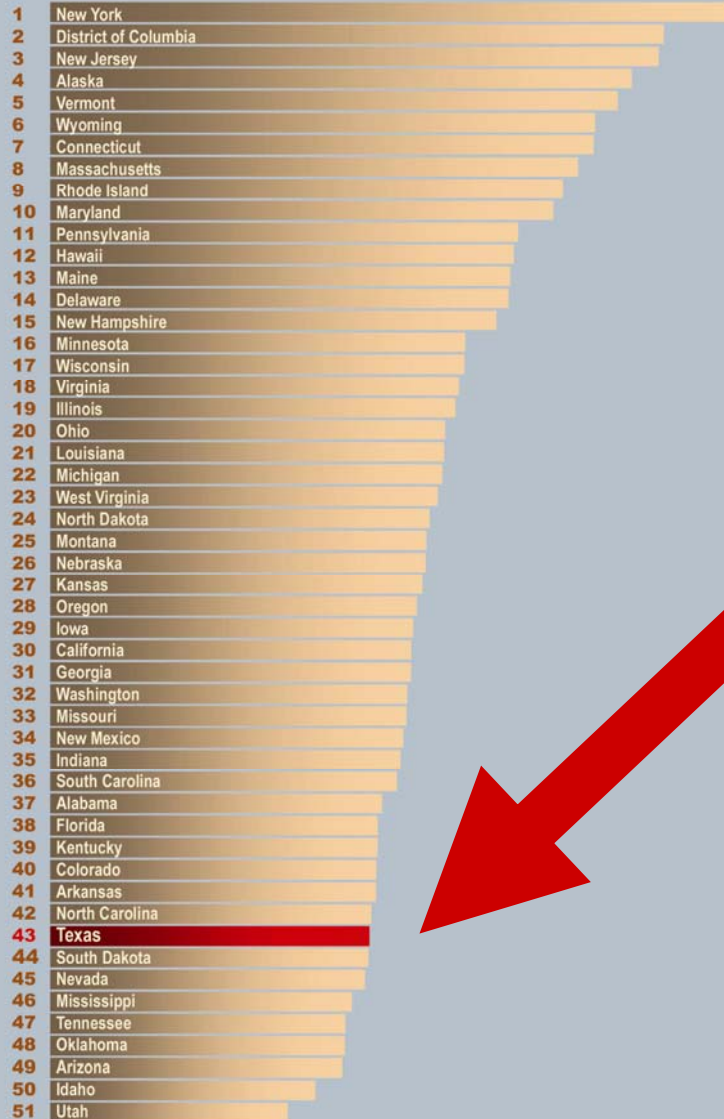


Fair Funding Now!

Excellent Schools for All Texas Students



Texas ranks 43rd in funding per student



Data source: 2009 Annual Survey of Local Government Finances – School Systems, U.S. Census Bureau



Billions Were Taken Away

And the cuts were made in ways that hurt the poorest schools the hardest.

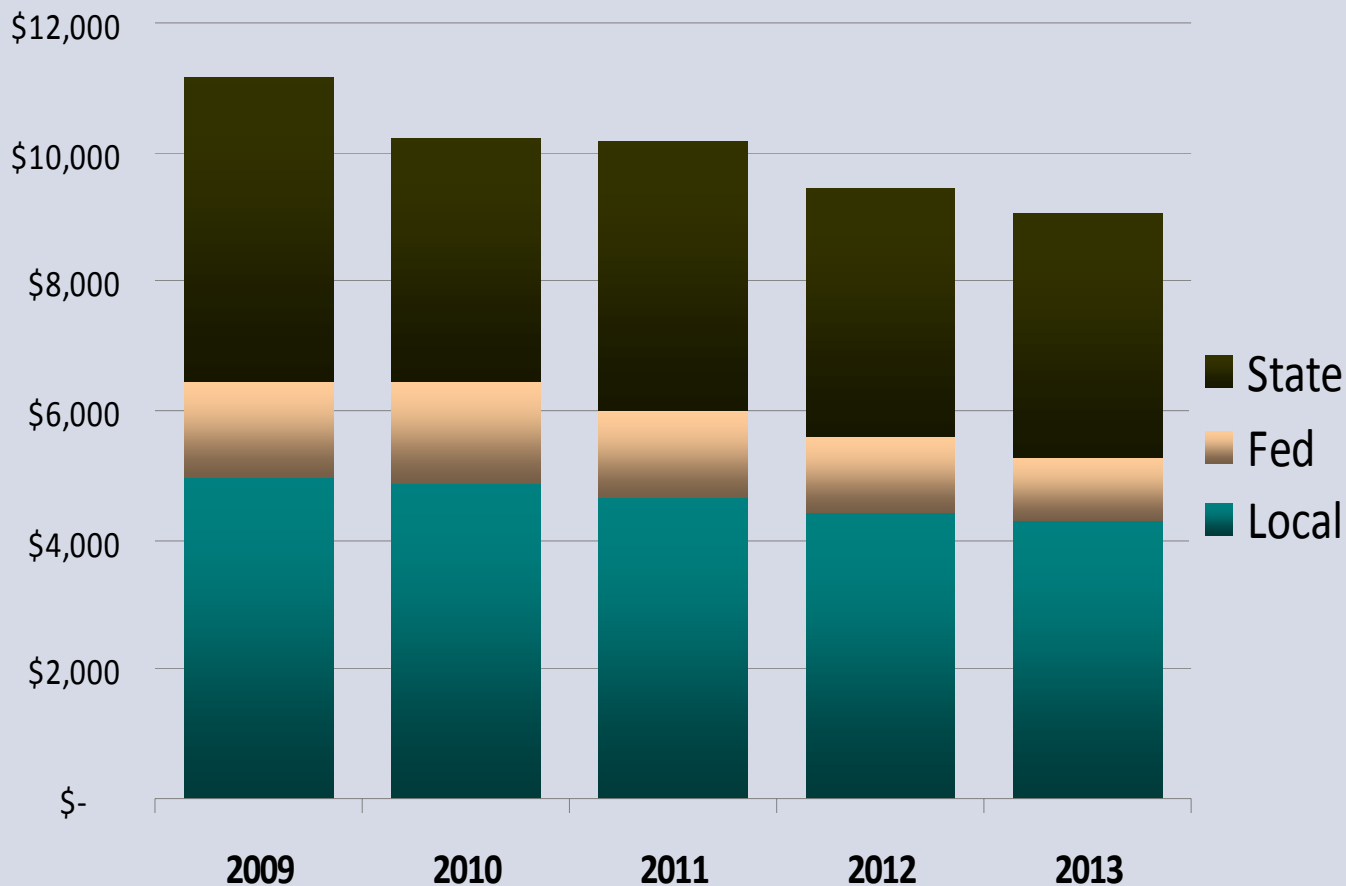
Education is not a luxury that can be taken away when times are hard.

These cuts will bring about disastrous results for our youth, for our families, our economy and for our state as a whole.

We must have excellent and equitable education for all Texas school children.



The State is Divesting in Education – Not Investing



Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities, 2011



Texas is Rich – But Our Public Schools Are Poor

Texas is the **second richest state**
in the country...

but ranks **47th in revenue raised** per capita.

**It's time to put our money
where our children are!**

Underfunded Schools Result in Undereducated Students

Three in 10 students in the freshmen class of 2006-07 left school prior to graduation.

Texas ranks only 40th in the nation in the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with an associate degree or higher.

71 percent of White students in Texas were considered college-ready in math compared to 50 percent of Hispanic students.

In 2011, African American students scored almost 100 points lower on the SAT than White students in reading and 101 points lower in math.

And this was before the funding cuts!



Special Interests Got the Breaks – But Schools Got the Bill

The Texas Legislature had the option to close loopholes that give tax breaks to many special interests but chose to give them breaks instead.

At the same time, they forced local schools to **pick up the tab** by raising taxes or cutting programs for students.



Texas School Funding is Still Inequitable

In Texas, some children are
considered more valuable than others



The legislature could have created equity, but
walked away – pushing millions of Texas children aside.

Figures based on average projected revenue per weighted student for 2011-12. Calculated by IDRA. Data source: Legislative Budget Board and Equity Center, 2011.



The 100 richest school districts will have **\$26,775 more** to spend **per classroom** on teachers, curriculum, books, technology tools and supplies



Poorest 100 school districts



Richest 100 school districts

It doesn't have to be this way

Figures based on average projected revenue per weighted student for 2011-12. Calculated by IDRA. Data source: Legislative Budget Board and Equity Center, 2011.



All Schools Lost Money – But the Poorest Were Hurt the Most

Simplistic across-the-board cuts are highly inequitable when applied on top of a school funding system that was **already under-funded and inequitable** by hundreds, and in some cases, thousands of dollars per student.



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Excellent Schools for All Texas Students

Join the many communities across the state that are taking action to make sure that schools are equipped to guarantee that **all children graduate ready for college and career.**



Ideas for Taking Action

- **Talk to other families** in your neighborhood and the larger community.
- **Document and report** how funding cuts are affecting your school.
- Organize a group to **speak** at public events.
- **Work with your PTA** to take a stand for equitable funding and publicize it.
- Go to a **city council** or county commissioners meeting and tell them about the impact of funding cuts on local children.
- Talk to **clergy** about funding inequity and approach congregations.
- Hold a **news conference** on the issue.
- **Write a letter** or talk to your state elected officials.
- Organize a **letter writing campaign** in support of fair funding of schools.

Interactive Online and Social Media Tools

See a Google map of funding cuts by county.

See a Google map of funding cuts by school district.

Share your story: How are funding cuts affecting your school?

Visit IDRA's **OurSchool portal** to see funding information and compare school districts. (Simple, free registration is required.)

www.idra.org





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