

The State Role in Equalizing Funding



School districts in Texas have different amounts of property to tax to raise money for their local public schools



**Some of the wealth
in certain districts
is generated by tax
breaks that all
Texans pay for.**



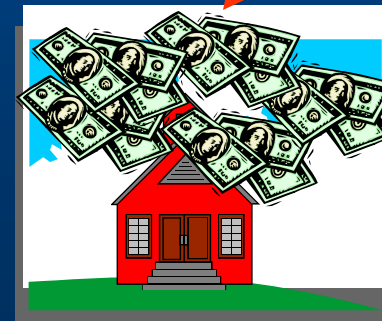
Since courts have ruled that education is the state's responsibility, and since there is wide variance in property wealth in Texas, the state must equalize school funding.



The state provides a different amount of money to schools based on district wealth

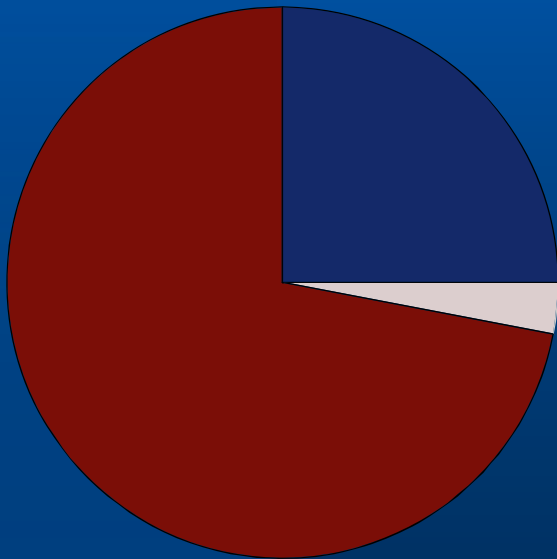
- Low wealth districts raise little and get much from state
- Average wealth districts raise about half and get other half from state
- Wealthy districts raise most money from local taxes and get little state funding

As a result, all districts have similar amounts of money to pay for local schools regardless of local wealth



Before Equalization in Texas...

10 percent of students
had access to 25
percent of the wealth



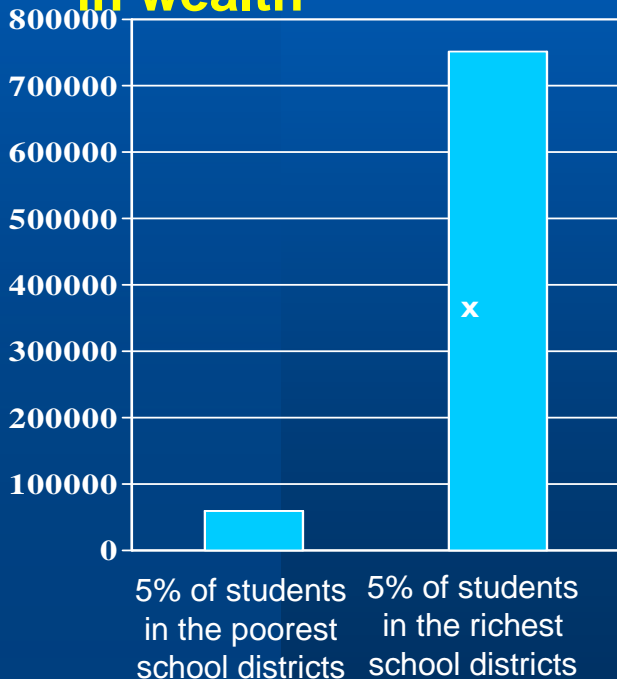
Another 10 percent
of students had
access to 3 percent
of the wealth

The 300,000 students in the highest wealth districts had access to 25 percent of the state's property wealth.

The 300,000 students in the lowest wealth districts had access to 3 percent of the state's property wealth.

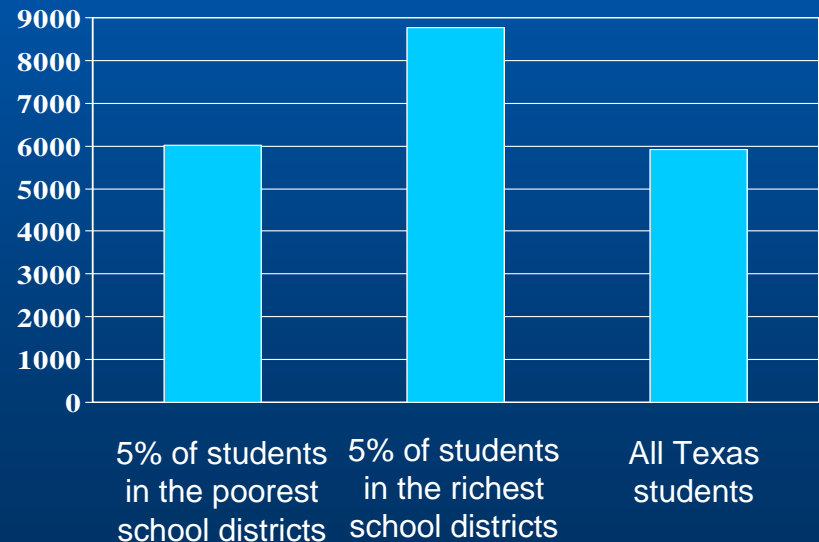
After Equalization in Texas

Texas school districts still had a great disparity in wealth



Property Wealth Per Pupil

But the gap in average per pupil expenditures narrowed.



But Now, Texas Has Been Pushed Backwards

After a 12-year span of more equitable school funding, changes were made that weakened the system, privileging a few children to the detriment of many. This was followed by huge unnecessary funding cuts that are crippling our schools.

We cannot afford to turn back the clock on equity like this.



Fair Funding System

- To have fair funding, we must...
 - Continue state funding based on wealth of school districts
 - Set limits on the amount wealthy schools can raise
 - Ensure that excess money is shared among all districts
 - Require state monitoring of the level of equity



Fair Funding Is...

- **Good public policy**
- **Good for business**
- **Relief for taxpayers**
- **Necessary for all children**
- **Essential to economic viability**



Fair Funding is Good for Texas

- Student achievement is improved
- Taxpayer equity in sharing education costs is in place
- Business has improved workforce
- Graduates are better prepared
- Overall family income rises
- College enrollment increases



Strengthening Schools to Work for All Children

Intercultural Development Research Association
5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101
San Antonio, Texas 78228

210.444.1710 • • contact@idra.org

www.idra.org

twitter

@IDRAedu

facebook

facebook.com/IDRAed

Linked in

www.linkedin.com/company/intercultural-development-research-association