



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM REFORM

Pursue an adequate and equitable solution for school funding that maintains accountability and responsibility for educating the whole child and includes funding for enrollment growth.

BACKGROUND

- The current funding system is a result of a series of short-term, “band-aid” solutions that have produced outdated, inequitable, and insufficient solutions for the needs of our diverse student population.
- Over the past decade, the state has continually decreased its share of public education funding to less than 40%, allowing rising local property taxes to fill the gap.
- The Texas Education Agency (TEA) projects an additional reduction in the state’s funding for public education by more than \$3.5 billion over the next two years.
- The economic situation in Texas looks more positive than it has in recent years.

According to Comptroller Glenn Hegar earlier this year,

- The state will have \$110.17 billion for general purpose spending for the 2018-19 biennium.
- The Economic Stabilization Fund, also called the Rainy Day Fund, will have a balance of \$11.9B at the end of fiscal year 2019.
- Sales tax revenue, the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57% of all tax collections, is up by 10.5% for 2018 over 2017.
- Texas PTA believes the legislature must dedicate new, increased revenue to replace the funds lost to years of budget cuts and to support a growing student population with a wide range of learning needs.
- It’s time to create a funding system that equitably supports all students and relies on statewide funding sources rather than local property taxes.

Texas Tribune, “Will Texas School Finance Panel Tell Schools to do More with Less? Some Members Think it’s Predetermined,” <https://www.texastribune.org/2018/03/16/school-finance-efficiency/>

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, “Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar Announces Revenue for Fiscal 2018, Record August State Sales Tax Collection,” <https://comptroller.texas.gov/about/media-center/news/2018/180905-sales-tax.php>

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