

Explaining The Oklahoma Public School Funding Crisis

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Oklahoma's public schools and the students they educate face a financial crisis that is negatively impacting student achievement and teacher recruitment/retention efforts. Left unaddressed, the funding crisis will cause Oklahoma public school students to fall further behind their counterparts.

KEY FACTS:

- All Oklahoma public schools students from grade 5 and below have experienced nothing but funding reductions!
- Despite the rhetoric from Oklahoma's political leaders that "Oklahoma schools have more than they've ever had"—Oklahoma remains 48th in the nation for per pupil expenditures.
- After adjusting for inflation, Oklahoma remains 1st in the nation for the largest cuts in state general revenue to schools. (see attached graphics)
- Oklahoma schools are now in year six of a two year moratorium on state-mandated requirements for class size, purchasing instructional materials, and making minimum library/media expenditures.
- In the 1988-89 school year, Oklahoma teacher pay ranked 48th in the nation and dead last in our seven-state region. Today, 27 years later, Oklahoma teacher pay continues to rank 48th in the nation and dead last in our seven-state region.
- According to U.S. Census Data, Oklahoma ranks 43rd in the nation in the amount of money used for "school administration."
 - According to the Oklahoma Policy Institute, even if Oklahoma put all the funds used for school administration into the classroom, Oklahoma per pupil funding would still be 48th in the nation.

TAKE ACTION:

- [Contact your State Representative and State Senator](#) and DEMAND that public education becomes our state's top priority for investment.
- Don't accept that public schools "have more money than ever" – push back and ask, "then why is our state still 48th in the nation for school spending?"
- Stray away from red herring plans such as "consolidation" and "Education Savings Accounts" (VOUCHERS).
 - These plans snuff out local voters on education policy matters, do not improve student achievement, and divert needed resources away from your local school.

- Only support plans that genuinely provide for new investments in public education.

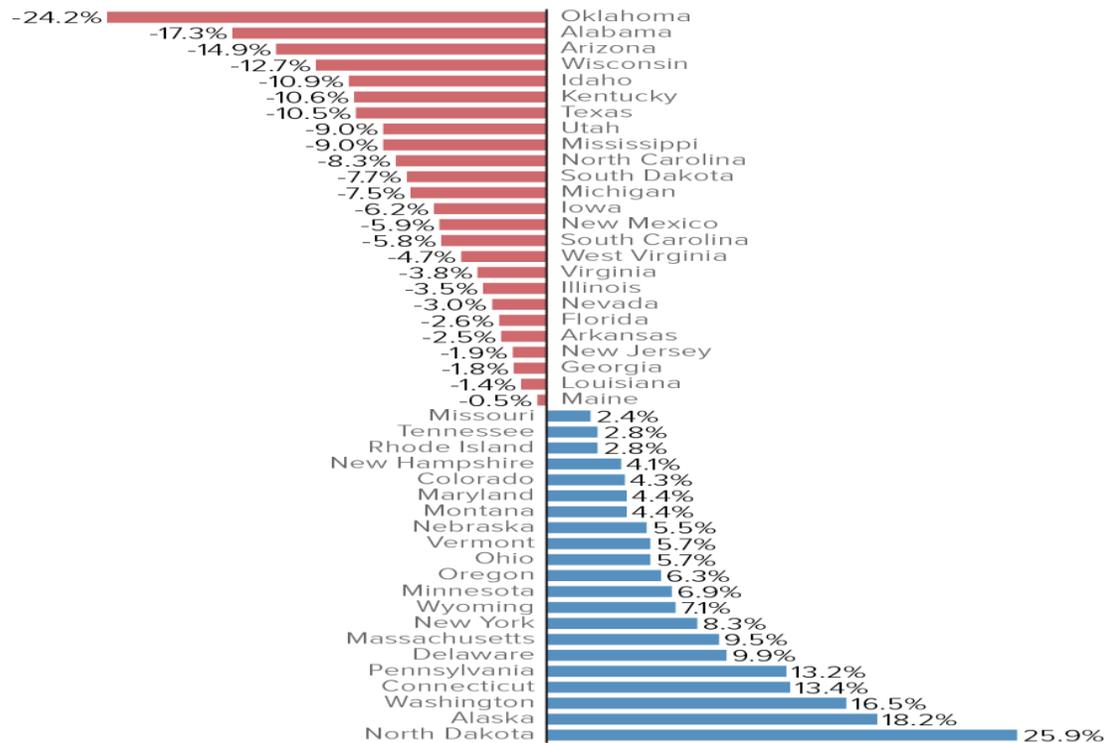
Resources:

- [Center on Budget Policy and Priorities](#)
- [U.S. Census Data on School Funding](#)
- [Teacher Salary Comparisons](#) (page 19)
- [U.S. Census Data on School Administration Funding](#)

Prepared by the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration ([CCOSA](#)) on February 8, 2016.

State General Funding Per Student Still Lower Than 2008 in 25 States

Percent change in state formula funding* per student, inflation-adjusted, fiscal years 2008-2016



*General or formula funding is the primary form of state K-12 funding. States also typically provide revenue for other, more specific purposes, such as bus transportation and contributions to school employee pension plans.

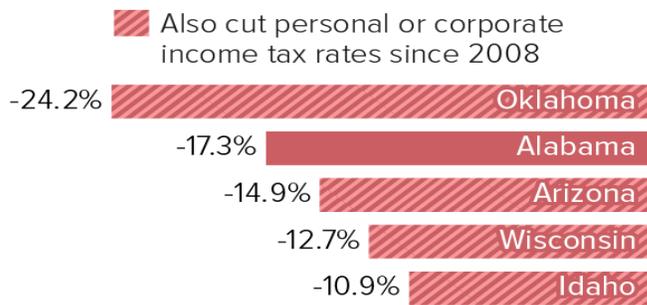
Note: California, Hawaii, Indiana, and Kansas are excluded because the data necessary to make a valid comparison are not available.

Source: CBPP budget analysis and National Center for Education Statistics enrollment estimates.

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Four of Five States With Deepest K-12 Cuts Also Cut Income Taxes

Percent change in state general funding* per student, inflation adjusted, 2008-2016



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Even to fast food.

A third-level apprentice at Chipotle can earn \$50,000 annually – **\$4,000** more than a 25-year Oklahoma teacher with a Ph.D.



Our teacher pay isn't competitive, and **our kids are paying the price.**

#OKHigh5 Brochure Excerpt