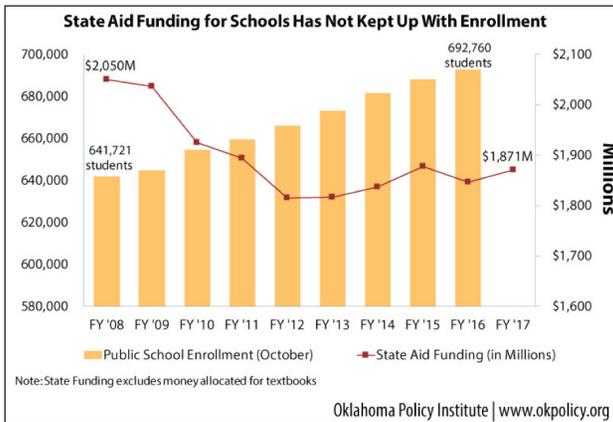


Oklahoma Education Funding

Which OKLAHOMA do we ASPIRE to be? It all begins with an investment in what REALLY matters . . .

Education funding . . . we're at the crossroads

- Oklahoma **CUT** public school funding **26.9%** between 2008 and 2017 – the deepest in the nation, and GROWING.
- Meanwhile, the **number** of students statewide has **increased** by an additional 51,039 students . . . served by 1,500 **fewer teachers**. (Source: Oklahoma Policy Institute)
- Oklahoma has the **48th-lowest per pupil** expenditures out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Our students can't be their BEST ...if our funding is among the WORST

- Oklahoma **would have to invest nearly \$1.3B** more annually to reach the **regional average** per-student spending.
- Local schools are dependent on state funding. Since 2001, the state has **cut** its share of education funding **from 59% to 51%**.
- Schools in **Kansas** receive an **additional \$41,548** per student in funding for their K-12 schooling.
- The proceeds from school bond issues **may not** be used to fund teacher or administrative salaries, benefits or related costs; bond dollars are used to fund district capital needs like buildings, furniture, computers, renovations/repairs, etc.

Oklahoma today . . .



- Teachers **leaving** our state in record numbers
- **48th** in per-pupil spending on education
- 2nd **highest** teen pregnancy rate in the nation
- Incarcerates more women per capita than any **state in the nation**
- Ranked **#5** in obesity (*Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index, 2015*)
- 30.9% of Oklahomans age 25 and older have a college degree, well **below** the national rate of 37.2%

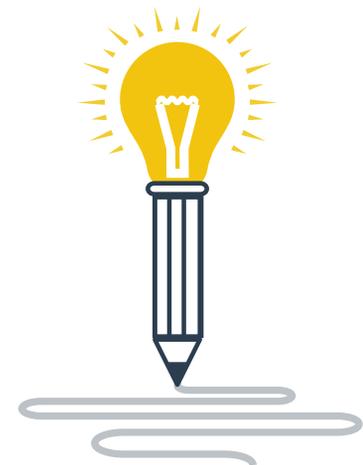
Education as a priority



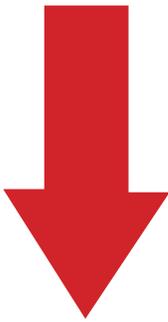
- Increase high school graduation and post-secondary degree completion
- Increase in companies **relocating to** our state
- Job **growth** and higher-paying salaries
- Innovation and prosperity
- **Decrease** in crime and citizens requiring social services
- Better health and **longer life** expectancy
- More educated and skilled workforce to handle a more diverse economy

“To **desire** is to obtain;

To **aspire** is to achieve.”
- James Allen



▶ Teacher pay in Oklahoma



- Oklahoma's average teacher salary and benefits were **3rd-lowest in the nation** in the 2015-16 school year.
- Oklahoma has struggled to keep experienced teachers in the classroom with **compensation below all** of our neighboring states.
- An Oklahoma teacher would need **34 years** of teaching experience to make the **same salary** as a **first-year teacher** in Texas.

Teacher Compensation



▶ EDUCATION is the answer!

- Nationally, students with a high school diploma earn \$10,000 more a year (on average) than someone without a diploma.
- They pay approximately \$2,500 more a year in taxes.
- High school graduates are also less likely to engage in criminal behavior or require social services. Additionally, they enjoy better health and longer life expectancy.

A 13% increase in the high school graduation rate in Tulsa county would mean . . .

- Earnings increase by \$34 million.
- Spending increases by \$26 million.
- Home sales increase by \$44 million.
- Gross regional product increases by \$43 million.
- Local/state tax revenue increases by \$2.6 million.

(The Alliance for Excellent Education/ all4ed.org)

Let's RE-IMAGINE Oklahoma's future by investing in our children's education!

Contact your State Senator
www.oksenate.gov/Senators

Contact Your State Representative
www.okhouse.gov/Members



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future they
deserve.