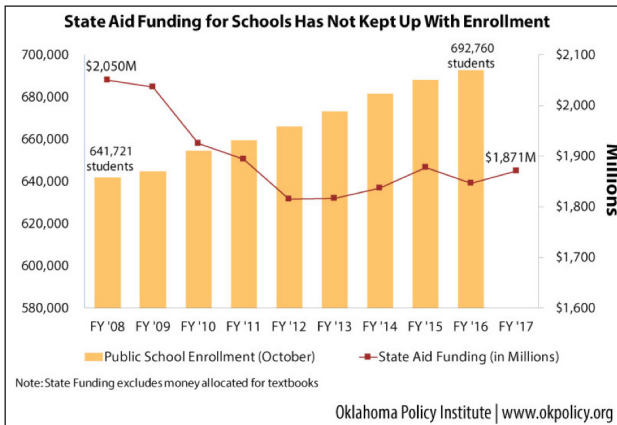


# Oklahoma Education Funding

## 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
- **48<sup>th</sup>** 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%

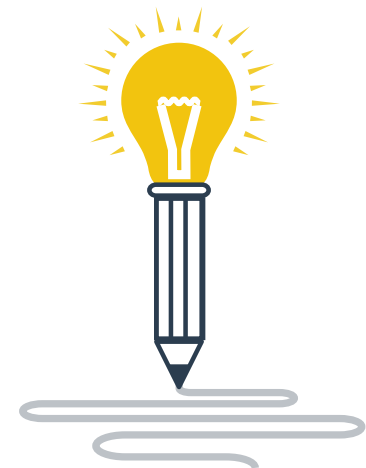
### Education as a priority



- 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 **3<sup>rd</sup>-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



## ▶ Teacher Shortage Facts

- More than **1,500 teaching positions** were eliminated statewide for the 2016-2017 school year.
- After five years, **40%** of college graduates with education degrees **no longer** work as **teachers** in Oklahoma.
- The number of students **completing teacher preparation** programs is shrinking, with a **24% decline** between 2005-06 and 2013-14. The decline is expected to continue.
- **17%** of new teachers in Oklahoma **leave** the state or their profession after their **first year**.
- **10%** of Oklahoma **teachers** with **10+ years** of experience **leave** the state or profession **every year**.
- The state Board of Education issued **1,063 emergency teaching certificates** in 2015-16, compared to **only 32** in 2011-12.
- The projected **demand for teachers** in Oklahoma will continue to **out-pace the supply**. (Sources: OSSBA, State Department of Education. *An Empirical Analysis of Teacher Salaries and Labor Market Outcomes in Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education*).

## ▶ 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](http://www.oksenate.gov/Senators)

Contact Your State Representative  
[www.okhouse.gov/Members](http://www.okhouse.gov/Members)



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Give them the  
**future** they  
deserve.