Oklahoma Education Funding

*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.

*Oklahoma today…*

Teachers leaving our state in record numbers

48\(^\text{th}\) 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

“Our desire is to obtain; To aspire is to achieve.”

- James Allen

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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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Minimum Starting Salary for New Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>$48,450</td>
<td>$31,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-3</td>
<td>$51,758</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>$49,197</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$48,220</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>$47,849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>$47,163</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$44,921</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

Give them the future they deserve.