

Putting More Money Into the Classroom

A vital first step towards fixing our public schools.



In 1970, it took 11 students to pay a teacher's salary.



Today it takes less than four.¹

So, where does the money go?

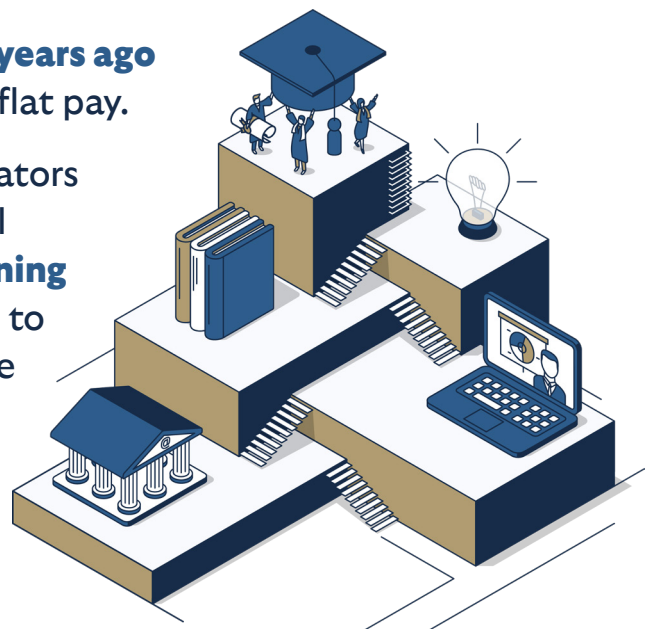
In Louisiana, K-12 school spending has increased 221% since 1970, even when controlling for inflation, but **student learning and teacher pay remain at troublingly low levels.**²

Nationally, only about 40% of the 4.6 million adults added to school districts since 1960 have been teachers. Today, in Louisiana, **only 49% of school staff are classroom teachers.**³

Teachers' paychecks went further nearly 40 years ago than they do today due to rising inflation and flat pay.

Nationally, the increased number of administrators (172%), support staff (246%), and instructional aides (1438%) **has not improved student learning outcomes**—and has made it nearly impossible to increase pay that would attract and retain more high-quality teachers.⁴

Fourth-grade **reading scores remain below the national average** in Louisiana.⁵

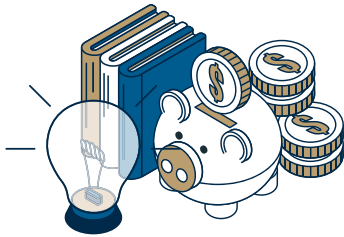


THE SOLUTION

K-12 Spending Transparency

Publishing school-by-school information will help ensure that taxpayers know how their money is being spent—and can hold schools accountable.

By creating a window into each purchase a school makes, states empower parents to advocate for less waste, better teacher pay, and funding for other research-backed solutions that are proven to improve student learning outcomes.⁶⁻⁷



HOW IT WORKS

Louisiana would set up a public checkbook portal for local schools to **publish detailed information about every dollar they spend.**

Local officials, parents, and members of the public would have **immediate access to information** on how every dollar is spent, whether an administrator's salary, office supplies, or new curricula.

This policy can be even more effective when paired with **mandatory training for superintendents, principals, and school board members** so that they understand the information and what actions they can take when they find something concerning.

WHY IT MATTERS

When communities come together, armed with facts about how public-school dollars are spent, they can **hold schools accountable and advocate for proven strategies that improve student outcomes** and compensate teachers fairly.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Education spending transparency allows parents, school boards, and taxpayers to stand up to unaccountable bureaucracies that waste money and fail to educate children.

SOURCES:

1. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_236.55.asp
2. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23_236.65.asp
3. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_213.40.asp?current=yes
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