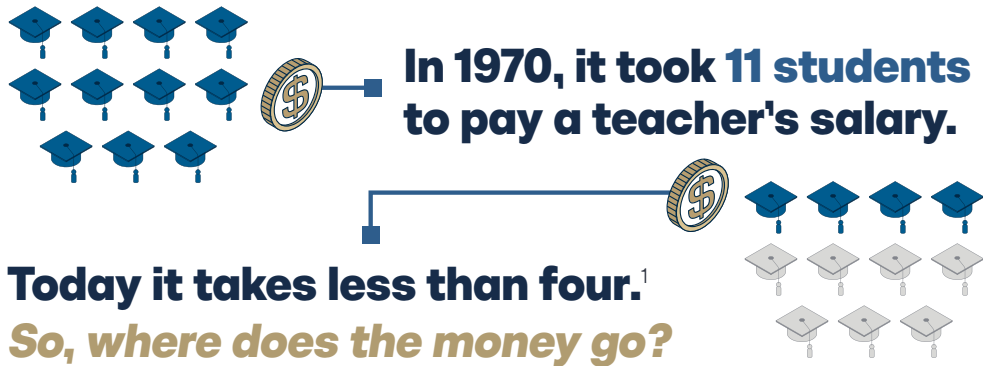


# Putting More Money Into the Classroom

*A vital first step towards fixing our public schools.*

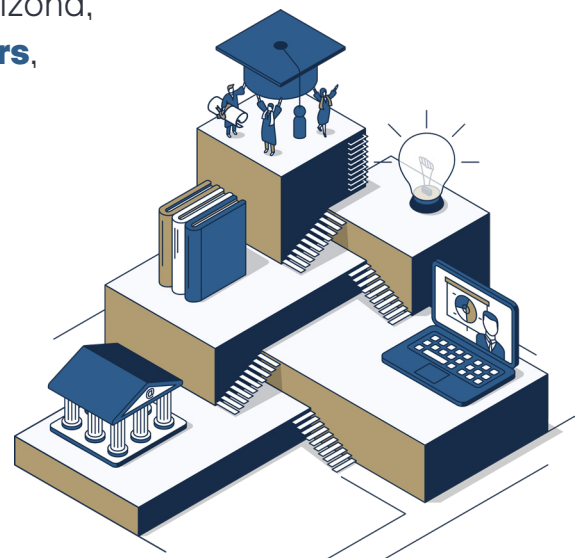


In Arizona, K-12 school spending per pupil has increased 116% since 1970, even when controlling for inflation.<sup>1</sup> Despite this, **Arizona ranks last among all 50 states and Washington, D.C., for the relative change in average teacher salaries** during the same period, with inflation-adjusted salaries declining by 14.1%.<sup>2</sup>

Nationally, only about 40% of the 4.6 million adults added to school districts since 1960 have been teachers. Today, in Arizona, **only 45.6% of school staff are classroom teachers**, leaving Arizona 1.9% below the national average.<sup>3</sup>

Nationally, the increased number of administrators (172%), support staff (246%), and instructional aides (1,438%) **has not improved student learning outcomes**—and has made it nearly impossible to increase pay that would attract and retain more high-quality teachers.<sup>4</sup>

Fourth-grade **mathematics and reading scores remain below the national average** in Arizona.<sup>5</sup>

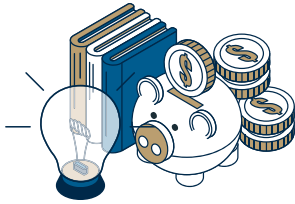


## THE SOLUTION

### 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.<sup>6-7</sup>



## HOW IT WORKS

Arizona 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/d23/tables/dt23\\_236.70.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23_236.70.asp)
2. [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22\\_211.60.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_211.60.asp)
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