

Many Aspects and Participants in the Process of Education: Defining the Issues and Organizing the Problem from Federal, State, Local Agencies

Typically, the education profession provides more jobs to local communities than any other profession. Schools and universities are the largest employers in any community. Never before have there been cuts to education or public safety (police/fire), but these unprecedented times and massive debts dictate the need for severe cuts to everything, thereby jeopardizing economic recovery. Any governmental cuts will eliminate some jobs.

Education is a complicated profession involving many people of differing disciplines. Improving the outcomes of learning requires a clear definition of the responsibility and control for improvement. Below are some of the participants required for a successful education outcome. Hillary Clinton's book, "It takes a Village" documented the complexity of raising a child; and so it is with education. There are many players and all are required for effective results.

1) Students

Changing demographics

Language / culture differences

Gender conflict / boys vs. girls

Discipline / Motivation / Expectations for success

Role models / peer pressure

Relevance / Changing need and demand for education: academic vs. technical training / intelligence vs. job-ready

2) Parents/ Family / Community Support

Lack of family support and involvement / home atmosphere / values toward education

Business connections / internships / practical applications / job connections

3) Teachers -

Qualifications / training /

Quality of teacher education

Certification

Commitment to excellence / lack of accountability / personal profession

Academic training vs. Communication skills

4) Education Administration / School Boards / Institutions / Unions

Contracts and personnel issues

5) Curriculum – what is taught?

Relevance

Standards / quality

Academic subjects and fields

Communication skills / interpersonal

Character education / morals / ethics

Math / science vs. arts / creative disciplines

Technology skills

Physical education / sports /

Special education / disability accommodations

State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts textbooks and sets standards

6) Instructional methods- how it is taught

Techniques

Audio / visual / Internet

Distance Education / lack of face time?

Books / libraries /

7) Testing and Assessments – Texas Education Agency

Standardized tests

Graduation rates / drop outs/ Cheating

8) Funding and Financial Issues: equal and adequate education for all?

Increase in costs for services and all aspects for education delivery

Unpredictable rises in costs: energy, insurance, expanding role of education

Cuts required at all levels of education to comply with budget deficits and funding shortfalls

Minimum provisions from federal government, but need for national standards

Inconsistencies in state funding creates discrepancies in quality

Competitiveness in global arena

US lags all other countries

State dominated funding, but declining role

Requirement for balanced budgets

Local control by ISDs (independent school districts) and funding from increasing property taxes

Requirement for balanced budgets

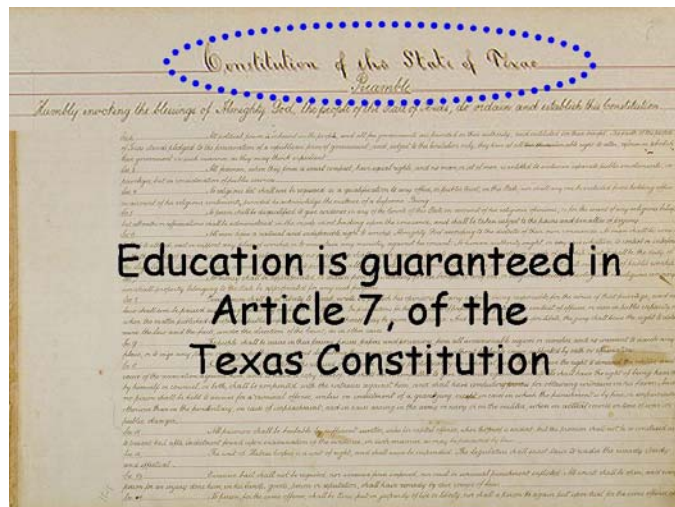
Competition from private schools

Organizational & Funding Relationships for Education between Federal, State, & Local

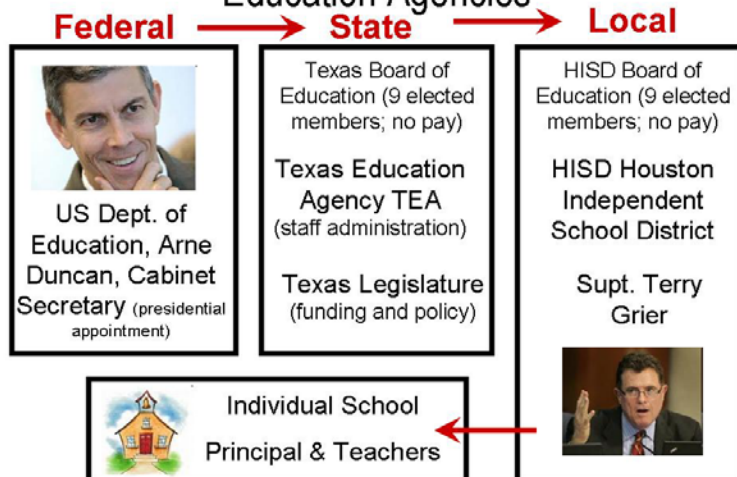
Some important items/'rights' are **NOT** mentioned or guaranteed in the US Constitution:

- **Healthcare** – most industrialized countries of the world provide affordable healthcare to their populations, except the US. This is one of the most pressing, controversial, and economically threatening issues in the country today.
- **Education** – there is no mention of such and thus no funding; but rather it is the **Texas Constitution (Article 7)** that makes such a guarantee and requires the state to fund public and higher education.

Both these issues are rejected by Tea Party activists as inappropriate roles for federal government so are therefore major topics of contention today.



Organization Chart of Governmental Education Agencies

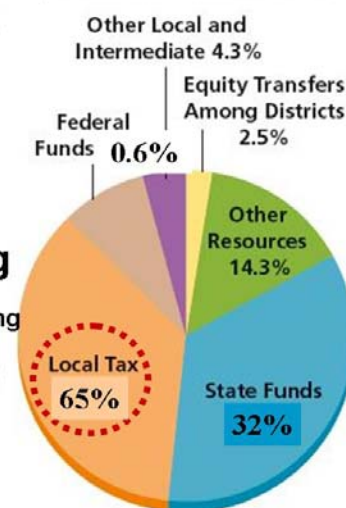


Education Formula for HISD:

- **65 % Local / HISD property taxes**
- **32% State funding**
- **2.3 % Other local funding**
- **0.6% Federal funding**

Almost ALL school funding is local and state!!

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2008–2009 Budgeted Financial Data, www.tea.state.tx.us.



Texas ranks 44th out of 50 states in education spending per pupil.



How can we think of cutting it even further?

It's time to stand up for our children and put Texas back on the map.
Go to RaiseYourHandTexas.org or call 512-476-4178 to take action now!



But we did!!

This was a full page ad in the *Houston Chronicle* to help make the public aware of the condition of education. This was BEFORE the 2011 Legislative budgets were enacted the cut state funding by \$4B.

Senate OKs \$4 billion cut in school funds

■ Bill, which leaves \$6 billion in rainy day fund, goes to the House

By GARY SCHARER
AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — The Senate voted Friday night to make education pay its share of the state's budget problems, reviving a plan to cut \$4 billion out of public school funding.



School funding cuts get House panel's OK

■ Hot-button plan to trim education spending advances along party lines

By GARY SCHARER and NOLAN HICKS
AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — The House Appropriations Committee voted along party lines Saturday to recommend a controversial plan to reduce public education spending by at least \$4 billion, cuts that hundreds of

Texas later protested during a Capitol rally. The full House will take up the school funding bill later this week in a special session that Gov. Rick Perry called Tuesday after Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, killed the plan to cut public education with a filibuster in the last hours of the regular session.

SMOKING BAN REVIVED
House committee OKs bill that would ban smoking in public places. PAGE B4

Fewer than 250 public school teachers and parents protested under the Capitol dome Saturday. "I can't sit by idly and watch the Legislature cut education to the core like this," said Hillary Whitfield, House on SCHOOLS, Page B4

Actual annual property taxes are calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the appraised home value.

Taxing Entity and Jurisdictions	2008 Rate	Appraised Home Value	per \$100,000	Property tax
HOUSTON ISD	1.15670	\$75,000	\$750	\$867.53
HARRIS COUNTY	0.38923	\$75,000	\$750	\$291.92
HARRIS CO FLOOD CNTRL	0.03086	\$75,000	\$750	\$23.15
PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHY	0.01773	\$75,000	\$750	\$13.30
HARRIS CO HOSP DIST	0.19216	\$75,000	\$750	\$144.12
HARRIS CO EDUC DEPT	0.00584	\$75,000	\$750	\$4.38
HOU COMMUNITY COLLEGE	0.09243	\$75,000	\$750	\$69.32
CITY OF HOUSTON	0.63875	\$75,000	\$750	\$479.06
				\$1,892.78

These taxes are usually included in the monthly mortgage, rent, or must be paid annually in a lump sum if the home is owned outright by the owner.

School funding is paid by local property owners on their houses or via rent.

Low success rates an annual disaster

■ Community college dropouts cost taxpayers \$74 million

By JEANNIE KEVER
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Taxpayers spend more than \$74 million a year educating Texas community college students who drop out within a year.

The national tab reached nearly \$1 billion for the 2008-09 school year, according to a study released Thursday by the American Institutes for Research. "Believe me, we are very concerned," said Charles Cook, vice chancellor for Houston Community College. "The focus is shifting. It's not only how do we get students in the door, but how do we ensure that they succeed?"

Community colleges are funded by the State as well and those dropouts also cost \$ millions.

Schools are ranked by accountability ratings and performance by the state and published in newspapers



The cost of college drop outs is borne by the entire community.

RACE TO THE TOP

PHASE 2 WINNERS

 DC	 FL	 GA	 HI
\$75 million	\$700 million	\$400 million	\$75 million
 MD	 MA	 NY	 NC
\$250 million	\$250 million	\$700 million	\$400 million
 OH	 RI	PHASE 1 WINNERS	
\$400 million	\$75 million	 DE	 TN
		\$107 million	\$502 million

Conservatives criticize this as a 'government take-over', yet the country is weakened and threatened when states shirk their role in providing core services.

Grand Area
Democratic Club
Houston, Texas
ENTERING & LEAVING THE AREA

DON'T MESS WITH
TEXAS FUTURE

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS
S. O. S.

CUTTING
SCHOOL FUNDS
IS A
PERRY
BAD IDEA

UNION

LAYOFF
LINE
\$5

<http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/2012/03/u-s-education-secretary-arne-duncan-sits-down-with-rick-perry-to-discuss-texas-waivers/>

Posted by [Richard Dunham](#) on [March 10, 2012 at 1:22 pm](#)

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan sits down with Rick Perry to discuss Texas waivers

Texas on the Potomac regularly shares some of the best national political content from the *Texas Tribune*. Today, we are pleased to offer you a scoop from two of our favorite Trib stars, [Reeve Hamilton](#) and [Morgan Smith](#).



Secretary of Education Arne Duncan quietly met with Rick Perry.

In between back-to-back speaking engagements in Texas, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan met with sometime political adversary **Gov. Rick Perry** to discuss a possible waiver on the No Child Left Behind Act.

So far, Texas has not joined the almost 40 states that have asked for relief from the federal law's 2014 goals for student academic achievement. The state has held back from requesting a waiver because of concerns about adhering to the associated federal guidelines for academic standards and teacher evaluations. Catherine Frazier, a Perry spokeswoman, said the governor was looking into the possibility of a waiver but would do what was best for the state. "Gov. Perry has always said that he believes education is best administered at the state and local level," she said. During their private meeting, which lasted about 30 minutes, the pair also discussed the Obama administration's Community College to Career Fund and tuition rates in higher education.

In August, Duncan publicly criticized the governor, saying the state's schools had "really struggled" under his leadership. "I feel very, very badly for the children there," he said in an interview on Bloomberg Television.

While campaigning for president, **Perry repeatedly called for the shuttering of the Department of Education**. The governor has also been vocal about the state's refusal to participate in the administration's Race to the Top and to accept common core curriculum standards, which **he characterizes as undue federal intrusion in the classroom**. Earlier in the day, though, Duncan praised a Perry-backed Texas policy that became a liability for the governor during his failed presidential bid. Speaking with reporters after a town hall event at Austin Community College, Duncan commended the Texas law Perry signed that allows illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition at public universities.

Duncan said he, along with Obama, will continue to push for the federal **DREAM Act**, which would create a path to permanent residency status via higher education. The decade-old policy in Texas — which allows students to pay in-state tuition if they graduated from a Texas high school, have lived in the state for three years before applying and sign an affidavit indicating their intent to apply for permanent residency as soon as possible — is sometimes referred to as the "Texas DREAM Act."

The issue became a flashpoint during Perry's presidential campaign, particularly after a September debate in which he chided critics of the policy, saying, **"If you say that we should not educate children who have come into our state for no other reason than they have been brought there by no fault of their own, I don't think you have a heart."** He later **walked back the statement, calling it "inappropriate" and "over-passionate."**

On Thursday, Duncan was strident on the matter, saying, **"As a country, we're fundamentally backwards on this issue."** **"These young people who have been in this country — often since they were infants — they've played by all the rules, they've gotten great grades, they've been community leaders, they've done community service,"** he said. **"Then, when they graduate from high school, to see the door of opportunity slam shut on them, just makes no sense to me whatsoever."** Duncan said the administration would continue to push the federal DREAM Act until it is passed, but that in the meantime he appreciates policies like those in Texas. **"This is the right investment,"** he said.