

THE BASIC ALLOTMENT FUNDS EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

State's core funding unit has been flat since 2019.



The Basic Allotment is a revenue source that the state provides to public schools for every enrolled student. School districts use this allotment to fund priorities including teacher and staff salaries, classroom materials, campus security, school utilities, and more.

The Texas Legislature has not increased the Basic Allotment since 2019. This funding stagnation has created significant challenges for public schools due to inflation of more than 20% since that last increase. Schools have had to cut academic programs and staff, and some districts have closed campuses.

WHY DOES THE BASIC ALLOTMENT MATTER?

In 2019, the Legislature and Governor Abbott increased the Basic Allotment to \$6,160 per student as part of an effort to improve funding for public education. While the allotment has remained flat, the rising of utilities, insurance, fuel and other expenses has pulled school district resources away from priorities such as teacher pay — leaving Texas with a historic rate of teacher turnover.

In a spring 2024 survey conducted by the Texas Association of School Business Officials, 43% of participating districts said they were considering “significant” budget cuts.

The Legislative Budget Board (LBB) has illustrated the shrinking spending power of each dollar budgeted for public education. Since 2019, education funding has decreased **\$9.8 billion** when adjusted for inflation and population growth, the LBB says.

The Basic Allotment funds priorities that directly impact learning. With a significant state surplus, the Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott can meaningfully increase the Basic Allotment in 2025 to help schools start to recover from recent funding shortages.

Texas ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student funding by state and **spends \$4,400 less per student** than the national average. (Source: NEA)

The Legislative Budget Board says **public education funding has decreased \$9.8 billion** between FY 2020 and FY 2025 when adjusted for population growth and inflation.

The Texas Comptroller estimates that the state will have a **\$20 billion surplus** during the 2025 legislative session.

Legislators can show their support for students, families, and teachers by investing surplus dollars in a meaningful Basic Allotment increase.