

School Choice and Lower Taxes: *Why Can't Texans Have Both?*

Texas parents want to have a choice about where their children go to school. Texas taxpayers want to stop the ever-increasing property tax burden of Texas government schools. Yet the Texas Legislature once again this year has failed to provide choice for parents and long-lasting property tax relief for taxpayers.

After the Texas Legislature failed to address school choice and the growing cost of government schools in its regular session earlier this year, Gov. Greg Abbott called the Legislature back twice this fall in special sessions to try again. Not only did members of the Legislature fail both times, but the plans they came up with put billions of taxpayer dollars more into public education than they did into school choice. Government schools never have enough of your money. Additionally, the few dollars dedicated towards school choice would be subject to annual appropriation, which will be used as leverage to hold pro-school choice members hostage.

Cost of Texas House Education Plan			
Year	School Choice	Public Education	Total
2024	\$0	\$1,850,446,543	\$1,850,446,543
2025	\$461,800,000	\$5,245,204,725	\$5,707,004,725
2026	\$1,900,000,000	\$5,903,493,881	\$7,803,493,881
2027	\$2,100,000,000	\$7,811,291,448	\$9,911,291,448
2028	\$2,300,000,000	\$8,841,626,409	\$11,141,626,409
Total	\$6,761,800,000	\$29,652,063,006	\$36,413,863,006

Source: [HB 1 Fiscal Note](#) (2027 school choice cost is estimated)

Cost of Texas Senate Education Plan			
Year	School Choice	Public Education	Total
2024	\$0	\$2,496,228,147	\$2,496,228,147
2025	\$500,000,000	\$2,721,124,418	\$3,221,124,418
2026	\$0	\$2,795,358,341	\$2,795,358,341
2027	\$0	\$3,025,543,137	\$3,025,543,137
2028	\$0	\$3,122,865,598	\$3,122,865,598
Total	\$500,000,000	\$14,161,119,641	\$14,661,119,641

Source: [SB 1](#) & [SB 2](#) Fiscal Notes

The proposed 5-year \$29 billion increase on education in the House plan or the \$14 billion increase in the Senate plan come on top of a 10-year increase in education expenditures of \$32.3 billion, which includes a \$21.2 billion increase in school property taxes.

10-Year Growth in School Expenditures		
School Year	Total Expenditures	
2012	\$52,549,177,395	
2022	\$84,854,165,916	
Increase	\$32,304,988,521	61.5%

Source: Texas Education Agency [PEIMS Reports](#)

10-Year Growth in Public School Property Taxes		
Tax Year	Total Tax Levy	
2012	\$23,072,781,962	
2022	\$44,296,728,440	
Increase	\$21,223,946,478	92.0%

Source: [Huffines Liberty Foundation](#)

Texans want school choice. Texans want better, less costly schools and lower taxes. After the recent failures, the question they must ask Texas politicians is, "Why can't we have both?"