Teacher Salaries are the Main Piece of School Budgets

Fifty-nine percent of school operating expenditures are spent on payroll salaries and benefits.\(^1\) Out of money spent on professional salaries (i.e. teachers, support staff, and administration) statewide, 73% goes toward paying teachers.\(^2\)

Administrative salaries make up the smallest proportion of professional salaries at just 10%.\(^3\) This means public schools are operating efficiently to put the greatest salary resources toward the people directly educating students—teachers.

Unfortunately, public schools are still experiencing a squeeze on staffing from massive state budget cuts that the Legislature passed in 2011. With increasing student growth, Texas schools need 11,000 more teachers to reach the same student-teacher ratios from nearly a decade ago.\(^4\) Improving student-teacher ratios will require additional funding.

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1. TXSmartSchools.org, “Texas Public Education by the Numbers.”
2. Texas Education Agency, PEIMS Staff Salary FTE Statewide Reports.
3. Administrative salaries include school campus leadership and district office administrative positions.

See all the GET SCHOOLED! fact sheets and more at txedstrong.org

The Center for Public Policy Priorities produced this analysis in 2018, with support from the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (TEGAC).