



Renewing Texas Infrastructure

2012 Texas Infrastructure Report Card

Texas Section – American Society of Civil Engineers



Schools Fact Sheet

Key Infrastructure Facts: Existing Condition and Performance

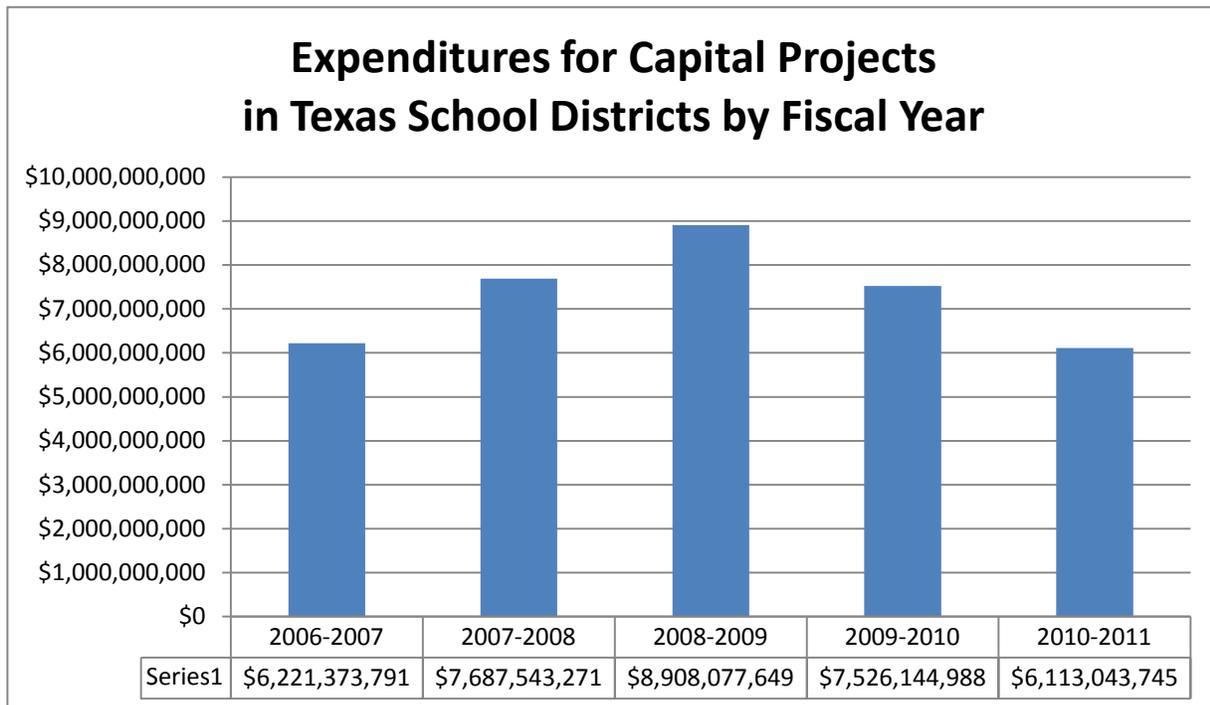
- In 1999, a U.S. Department of Education (USDE) survey found that about 25% of schools report at least one type of onsite building in less than adequate condition, and about 40% reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition; a more recent survey to supersede the efforts in 1999 has not been conducted at this time and has been verified by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) as being still valid.
- According to the USDE survey, 46% of the schools in Texas had at least one inadequate building feature (84% above the national average) and 60% had at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition (50% above the national average).
- The most recent figures show that there were 1,029 school districts and 199 charter school districts in Texas serving 4,998,000 students (133,700 of the total were enrolled in open-enrollment charter schools) and enrollment growth of about 21% over ten years. There are over 8,526 elementary and secondary schools in Texas (9% of the national total); most have their own campus facilities.
- The 1999 survey found that about 75% of the nation's 59,400 schools needed repairs, renovations or modernization to bring the facility to “good” condition and about 20% of the nation’s schools have less than adequate conditions for life safety features, roofs and electrical power. Extrapolating on the responses from Texas, over a third of the schools in Texas had potentially inadequate life safety features, roofs or electrical power facilities.

Anticipated Growth and Other Future Needs

- From 2000 – 2010, the population of Texas grew 20.6% according to the U.S. Census. In 2010, 19.5% of the population in Texas was school age, a percentage that has remained relatively constant. These figures indicate a current increase in school populations of just about two percent per year. Texas enrollment is the fastest growing for the 15 most populous states over the last decade.
- The 1999 USDE survey estimated that it will take \$127 billion to bring the nation's school facilities into “good” overall condition. Just two years earlier, that same level of improvement would have taken \$112 billion (as reported in ASCE's 1998 Report Card). Again extrapolating from Texas’ responses, an expenditure of at least \$5 billion would be required to bring Texas’ schools up to “good” condition.
- In 2000, the National Education Association (NEA) reported that facility needs are even greater – more than \$268 billion. Using a higher standard as a target, the NEA estimated that Texas would need to spend \$13.6 billion to “modernize” its public school facilities. When this figure is adjusted to remove expenditures needed for technology, the cost of “modernizing” the basic infrastructure alone appears to be in the range of \$11 billion. If one considers the 70% to 90% increase in construction costs over the decade for an elementary or secondary campus setting, costs to modernize for school year 2011-2012 would range upwards of \$20 billion.

Adequacy of Current Funding and Need for Expanded Funding

- Texas funding is only for operation and maintenance. Capital projects are locally funding through bond elections.
- Texas received \$50.5 billion dollars in revenue for public schools during the 2010-2011 school year. Of that figure, \$22.7 billion was raised by local school districts; \$22 billion was appropriated by the State and \$7.5 billion from other revenue sources.
- Texas public school operating expenditures per-student for fiscal year 2011 (twelve-month period ended June 30, 2011 or August 31, 2011 depending upon fiscal year end) was about \$8,717 and total expenditures per-student were \$11,146. The 82nd Legislature reduced overall per-student funding by about \$500 per student for the current state funding biennium, 2012-2013, according to the Legislative Budget Board.
- In 2006-2007 (the last available year for statistics from National Center for Education Statistics), Texas ranked 11th in per-student public school capital expenditures, spending \$1,447 per-student or about \$6.2 billion, according to the NCES.
- State funding to support school districts with debt principal and interest expenditures related to public school facilities is provided through the Instructional Facilities Allotment and the Existing Debt Allotment. These programs ensure equalized funding related to the Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax effort at rates of \$35.00 per penny per student in ADA. The EDA assistance is limited to 29 cents of tax effort, a limit that does not apply to IFA. Higher property wealth school districts rely upon local tax property taxes and receive no state aid from these state aid sources.



Sources

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- *Legislative Budget Board Fiscal Size-Up 2012-2013 Biennium*. Texas Legislative Budget Board.

- *Modernizing Our Schools: What Will It Cost*, National Education Association (NEA), April 2000.
- U.S. Census Quick Facts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>
- *Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010*, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf>
- Texas Education Agency, 2011-2011 Financial Actual Report, http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/school.finance/forecasting/financial_reports/1011_FinActRep.html.
- National Center Education Statistics Digest of Education Statistics 2010, Table 192; Total and current expenditures per pupil in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary education, by function and state or jurisdiction: 2006-07, http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d10/tables/dt10_192.asp.
- Texas Education Agency, 2011 Accountability Ratings, <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2011/statesummary.html>, Source for number of campuses in Texas.
- Texas Association of School Business Officials eFACTS+, Expenditures for Capital Projects in Texas Public Schools by Fiscal Year. (www.tasbo.org)
- Input provided by Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) staff, April 2012