

Spending and Services

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1 State Appropriations

The Texas 2018-2019 budget spent \$216.8 billion. We spent the most of education (\$80 billion)

Elementary and Secondary Education

1800s North accepted public schools

Post CW South began to accept public schools

1915 Compulsory attendance law

1918 Constitutional amendment that provided free textbooks

1949 Gilmer-Aikin law established TEA

1984 State accountability standards for students and teachers (no pass, no play/no pass, no teach)

2018 No pass, no play applies to 5 million students

School administration - substantial local control, emphasis on professional administration, and independence from the general structure of government.

- State board of Education - 15 members, 4 year terms, establishes rules and guidelines for the TEA
- Texas has the most independent school districts in the nation.
- ISD boards - elected

Politics of Public Education

State board of Education decides curriculum and textbooks. The Board of Education sets standards for teachers, but ISDs hire teachers.

ISDs spent an average of about \$10,000 / student. It comes from federal government, state government, and local taxes. Texas ranks 36th in spending per student.

Higher Education

Coordinated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The Board of Regents and Trustees outline the role of each public college and university.

Politics of Higher Education

- Financial Issues - state legislature deregulated public universities, which allowed them to raise tuition.
- Faculty issues - faculty are paid less than average. This leads to quality and retention issues
- Quality - schools in Texas are relatively cheap. UT and A&M are consistently top 50 in the US.

Health and Human Services

- HHS is the costly category of state spending for the 2018-2019 budget
- Funding originates as grants in aid from the federal government. Healthcare dominates the grants from the federal government.

Health Programs

Socialized medicine:

- State budget - Texas spends almost 1/3 of its state budget on the Medicaid program.
- Federal Funding - Medicaid receives more funding than any other single program.
- Three types of state health care:
 1. State is the direct provider (state run county hospitals)
 2. State is the payer but not the provider
 3. State is the regulator and buyer of private insurance (state will resell private insurance at a lower price)

Income Support Programs

- Unemployment insurance - Designed as an income replacement for people who have been laid off.
- Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) - designed to benefit children who's parents cannot provide for their basic needs.

Politics of Welfare

- Eligibility - erroneous belief that any poor person may be eligible for welfare. For most programs, you must be a citizen.
- Public assistance programs alleviate rather than cure
- Resentment occurs
- Difficult to determine cheating

Highway and Transportation Programs

- TxDOT - provides funding for primary and secondary roads
- Funding - Texas charges people to use some roadways to fund the construction and maintenance of the roadway.
- Commission - TxDOT is supervised by a 5 member committee with 6 year terms

Politics of Transportation

- Funding - limited. 75% of the gas tax goes to TxDOT.
- Federal funds - categorical grants
- Privatization of highways