

The Truth about State funding for public education

On Jan. 9, 2013, Governor Rick Perry said: "We've had public education funding growing at three times the public education enrollment. So you've had a 70 percent increase of funding from 2002 to 2012. You've had a 23 percent increase in enrollment... I think under any scenario over the last decade, the funding that we have seen in the state of Texas for public education has been pretty phenomenal."



The Truth-O-Meter Says:



THE FACTS

- Enrollment has increased about 20 percent from 2001-02 to 2011-12, from more than 4.1 million to nearly 5 million students, and it is expected to exceed 5 million once numbers are released from the current school year.
- Overall school expenditures, counting state, local and federal sources, totaled \$27.9 billion in 2002 and \$44.2 billion in 2012, which on its face appears to represent a 58 percent increase, **but that's before adjusting for inflation and changes in state law.**
- When the Legislative Budget Board converted 2004 dollars using the federal Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government, Texas public school spending in 2002 totaled \$30.1 billion. In 2012, the total was \$33.3 billion--**11 percent greater than in 2002.**
- Taking into account state spending on schools alone, the amount allocated in 2002 was \$10.9 billion, compared to \$18.9 billion in 2012, for an increase of 73 percent. When these numbers are **adjusted for inflation** by that same conversion, **the increase falls to 20 percent**, an increase from \$11.8 billion in 2002 and \$14.2 billion in 2012.
- When the Texas Legislature passed in HB 1 during a special session in 2006, the State intentionally agreed to cover an additional \$7.1 billion more per year to make up for any local loss that resulted from the policy decision that required schools to reduce local property taxes by one-third. **This change did not result in additional funding for schools**, but simply changed the source of the funding.
- When that amount is subtracted from the state spending in 2012, there is only a \$0.9 billion difference in spending. When adjusted for inflation, **2012 state spending equal \$8.2 billion in 2002 dollars--25 percent less** than the \$10.9 billion spent in 2002.

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<http://www.politifact.com/texas/statements/2013/jan/16/rick-perry/rick-perry-says-texas-education-increased-phenomenal/>