



About Taxpparency Texas

Taxpparency Texas (taxpacitytexas.org) is a grassroots effort by public school districts, acting on behalf of their schools and communities, who expect tax dollars paid to their school district to be used in public education. The focus of this endeavor is to educate and inform the public about the collection and allocation of local school property tax revenue.

The Definition of Taxpparency:

Taxpparency: the condition of being transparent with respect to taxpayer dollars.

The Issues:

1. Texas taxpayers are not aware that public school districts get very little, if any, additional operating revenue when property values rise.
2. At the same time, according to the outgoing chairman of the Texas House's Public Education Committee, the Legislature is spending more than \$2 billion a year that would have gone to public education on other programs and services in the state budget.¹

The Legislative Ask:

Be transparent with taxpayers by modifying required public announcements, notifications, and property tax statements to reflect the contribution of local funds and state funds for public school district operating budgets.

The Legislative Solution:²

1. Modify the Property Tax Statement to reflect the state's distribution of the local property taxes that are collected by school districts.
2. Modify the language that is required by law to be posted and/or read by school districts to reflect the portion of property taxes that is collected by local school districts, remitted to, and used by the state:
 - Required Notice of Public Hearing and Tax Rate language
 - Required Resolution Adopting Tax Rate language
 - Required Motion to Adopt Tax Rate language
 - Required Web Site Notification of Tax Rate Adopted language
3. Provide additional detailed information in the state appropriations bill to clearly identify the impact of changes in local property values on the state's contribution to education funding.

¹ "Analysis: The state's declining support for public education" by Ross Ramsey, Texas Tribune, December 12, 2016.

² relates to Texas Education Code sections 44.001 to 44.006 and Texas Tax Code Chapter 26