



TEXAS SCHOOL FACTS

McAllen AFT is going all out for the March 6, 2018 Primary vote.

Why is this election the most important in 50 years for public school employees?

Texas School Funding

- The Education Week *Quality Counts Report 2017* gave Texas an “D” for school spending
- That same report noted that Texas ranked 47th in per-pupil expenditures in 2016 when adjusted for regional cost differences
- In 2011 lawmakers cut \$5.3 billion from the biennial public education budget, about \$500 per student per year. Funding is beginning to recover, but the hole that these cuts created in school spending is over five years long and five billion dollars deep. As a result, our state has still not returned to pre-recession levels of public school funding
- Among the funding cuts that have not been fully undone are cuts for full-day pre-K grants, extra help for at-risk students (the Student Success Initiative) and mentoring for new teachers
- The state share of funding for school districts (not including charter schools) is

on course to shrink to about 31 percent in fiscal 2018-2019. Local property taxes fund the rest

Texas School Achievement

On the most recent administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test:

- Texas 4th graders ranked 11th in Math, 4 points above the national average
- African American 4th graders in Texas finished 1st nationally among their peers in Math
- Hispanic 4th graders in Texas finished 1st nationally among their peers in Math
- In Science and in Writing, the average score of fourth graders in Texas was not significantly different from the average score for public school students in the nation
- Texas 8th graders scored above national peers in Science and were at the national level in Writing
- Texas students in both fourth and eighth grades lagged their respective national peers in Reading
- Texas had its highest overall graduation rate ever in 2015: 89%. By 2016, that number, including late finishers, had climbed to 91.3%
- 62% of Texas seniors took the SAT in 2017 with an average score of 1020. The national



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average SAT score was 1060, however, in 23 states, fewer than 20% of seniors take the test

- 45% of Texas seniors took the ACT in 2017 with an average score of 20.7. The national average ACT score was 21, however, 17 states representing 34% of the country require 100% participation in ACT
- The Education Week *Quality Counts Report 2017* gave Texas a “C-” for achievement

Texas School Demographics

- Texas public school enrollment in 2007: 4,507,334 students; enrollment in 2017: 5,365,716 students
- The ten-year increase in Texas public school enrollment: 858,382 students or 19%
- By comparison, the number of public school students in Maryland (19th largest state): 859,000
- Texas will add 70,000-90,000 students (= all the kids in Fort Worth ISD) for each of the next 10 years
- Low-income, high-need student enrollment soared to nearly 60% of total enrollment; more than 3 million out of 5.3 million pupils
- Hispanic students today account for the largest percentage of total enrollment (52.2%), followed by white students (28.5%), African American students (12%) and Asian students (4%).
- In 2005 there were 2,503,755 economically disadvantaged students or 56 % of all students



- In 2015, there were 3,118,758 economically disadvantaged students or 59% of all students, and a 25% increase in the number of poor public school students over that 10-year period

SCHOLARSHIPS

Texas AFL-CIO scholarship program accepting applications



Reminder—if you know of a high school senior in an affiliated union family, this year's Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship Program is under way, with a deadline of **January 31, 2018**.

The one-time grants have been raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The program helps children of union members pay for college, but it goes beyond that. Through an interview and testing process, all applicants get more exposure to how unions work and to labor history. The program is open to high school seniors whose parent or legal guardian is a member of a union that is affiliated both with a Central Labor Council (or Area Labor Federation) and with the Texas AFL-CIO. (In some cases, students themselves are affiliated union members and, of course, that makes them eligible.)

The Union Plus Scholarship

Current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2018. Deadline is **January 31, 2018**.

<https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships>

Visit our McAllen AFT page for more scholarship information: <http://mcallen.tx.aft.org/member-benefits/scholarship-opportunities-1>