



Dear Fellow Texans,

School superintendents are often vilified for making too much money. Claims are routinely made that reducing their pay would leave plenty of money to educate kids.

Nonsense! That's our official position of Friends of Texas Public Schools on this unjust myth perpetuated by the very vocal minority of public education funding critics.

Not only are school superintendents justly compensated, but the percentage of tax dollars allocated toward their salaries and the salaries of all staff at the central office level across the state is just 3 percent. That's right! Texans invest just 3 pennies on every dollar for capable, conscientious, transparent, frugal, courageous, and servant leadership of their public schools. The other 97 pennies are invested directly into educating children. Watch our short video to see where each penny goes.

Props to the Texas Association of School Boards for their annual look at superintendent salaries across the state. Their review continues to reveal that Texas pays its school leaders reasonably, if not beneath their actual value, in our opinion. The average superintendent salary for 2015-16 is \$139,494, which is a 2.9 percent increase over 2014-15.

Average superintendent salaries range from \$92,479 in districts with fewer than 500 students to \$302,563 in districts with more than 50,000 students. Half of reported salaries are less than \$120,000.

Do superintendents make more than teachers? Sure they do. Do they make more than most private sector CEO's? Absolutely not, yet they are responsible for every bit as much and in many cases a whole lot more than their CEO counterparts. They lead the largest workforce in nearly every town. They manage the largest portfolio of facilities in every town. They also run the largest food service program and transportation system in town. They work nights and weekends year-round. And, they report to seven bosses known as school board members who represent the voters in their communities. Teachers and staff cannot do their jobs if the school superintendent is not doing his or her job. It's a complex, political, and underappreciated role that few understand or want to take on, which is why we applaud those who choose to serve Texas as public school superintendents. If you'd like to know more about the role of the superintendent in your community, pick up the phone and give them a call. They would be thrilled to hear from you.

God bless,

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