



GINA HINOJOSA



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 49

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Representative Gina Hinojosa (D-Austin) Denounces Texas House Budget as Insufficient for Our Public Schools

Austin, Texas - On Thursday April 6th, the Texas House of Representatives will vote on the state budget. With a \$32.7 billion surplus, the state has an historic opportunity to make real investments in our future. However, the budget has fallen flat with respect to public education funding:

- The Comptroller has indicated that schools need a \$900 increase per student just to keep up with inflation since 2019, the last time per student funding was increased.¹ The Texas House proposal only provides a \$50 increase per student.²
- Texas law states classrooms are entitled to a \$1.6 billion transfer from the Permanent School Fund (PSF) for books and technology.³ The Texas House proposal provides just \$1 billion.⁴
- The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has said school districts are due a \$2 billion increase for our kids in special education.⁵ The Texas House proposal provides no increase for kids in special education.⁶
- Texas teachers need at least \$8,000 more per year to meet the national average.⁷ The Texas House proposal provides just \$455 more per year for teacher pay.⁸

In total, the Texas House budget is short \$10.6 billion for public schools-- just to maintain status quo. Rep. Hinojosa offered the following statement in response:

"Schools have been chronically underfunded for far too long. With an historic surplus and schools in crisis, there is no excuse for the House's failure to fully fund our schools. I will not vote for a budget that shortchanges our students and their future."

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¹ Key Economic Indicators, <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/key-indicators/> (last updated March 1, 2023).

² Speaker Phelan's priority school finance bill ([HB 100](#))

³ Tex. Pub. Ed. Code § 43.001(d).

⁴ Tex. C.S.H.B. 1, 88th Leg., R.S. (2023).

⁵ [House Committee on Public Education, Interim Report to the 88th Legislature 8 \(2022\)](#).

⁶ HB 100, *supra* at note 2.

⁷ Educator Pay and Student Spending: How Does Your State Rank?, <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/educator-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank> (last updated April 26, 2022).

⁸ HB 100, *supra* at note 2.