



Priorities for Oklahoma

RESTORE EDUCATION FUNDING

“ I am reminded of an old cattleman saying: ‘You can’t starve a dollar out of a cow.’ ... Starving education through lack of funding to force change in hopes of better performance will not work and is not working.”

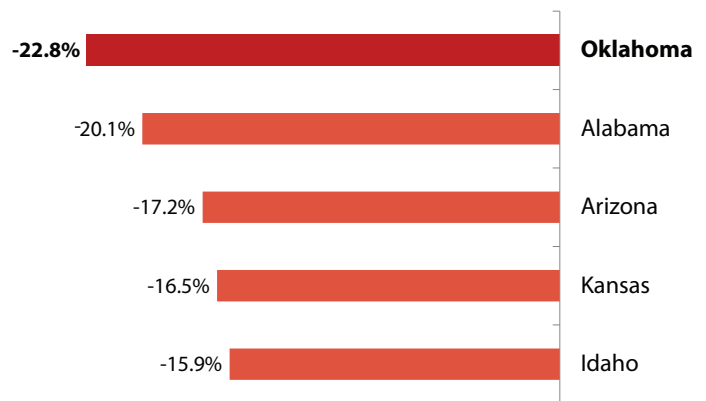
-Retiring Tulsa Public Schools police chief Gary Rudick

Oklahoma has made the largest cuts to school funding in the nation.

- Students are being crammed into overcrowded classrooms. Oklahoma has 1,500 fewer classroom teachers and 40,000 more students since 2008-2009.
- Lawmakers imposed stringent new testing and accountability mandates without new funding.
- Per student funding is down even more for Oklahoma higher education (-26.2% after inflation). The cost is being shifted onto rising tuition and fees.

Five Worst K-12 School Funding Cuts Since 2008

Percent change in spending per student, inflation adjusted, FY08 to FY14

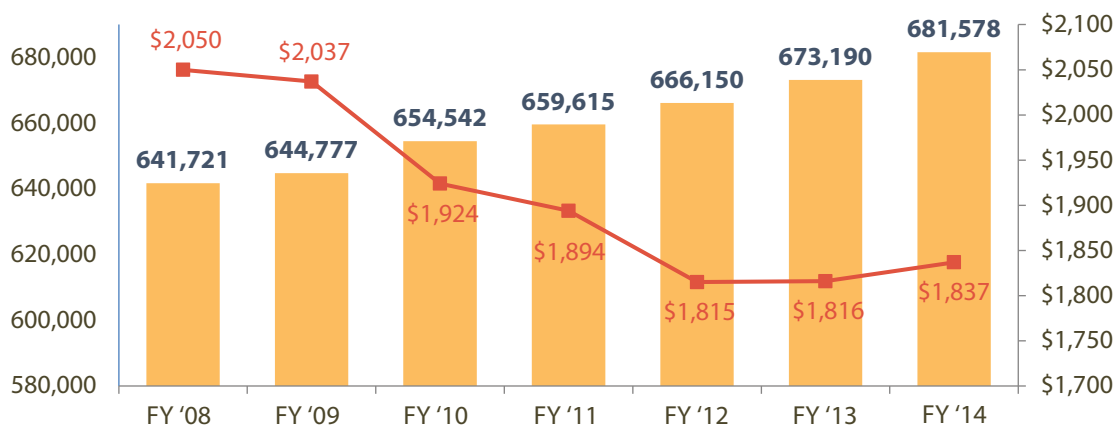


Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Funding Has Not Kept Up With Enrollment

The per student funding formula is down \$213 million, even as schools have nearly 40,000 more students.

Public School Enrollment (October) State Formula Funding (in Millions)



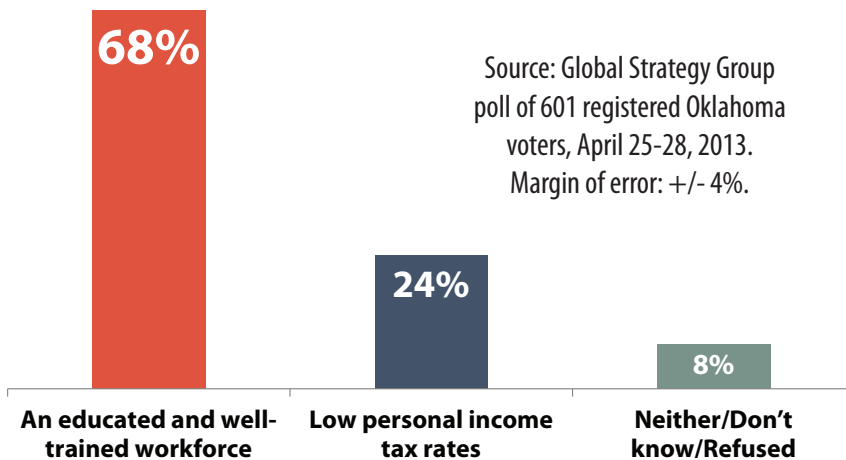
Cutting education is bad for the economy.



- **The most prosperous states are those with the best-educated workforce.** Across the nation, we see that increased education improves incomes for average families much more effectively than lower tax rates.
- **Education spending creates jobs today.** Research finds that dollar for dollar, spending on education creates almost twice as many jobs as would be expected from tax cuts of equal value and also results in better paying jobs.

Oklahomans Agree...

Which of the following do you think is more important to attract businesses to locate and invest in Oklahoma?



Oklahoma is already a low tax state with relatively few college graduates. We won't be more prosperous when we're an even lower tax state with less education. It defies economics and common sense!

What You Can Do:

- **Contact Lawmakers**
- **Engage Your Community**
- **Join the Grassroots Movement**



Find out more at www.togetherok.org or e-mail us at info@togetherok.org.