



# TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING: RECAPTURE A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS



*Want more details? Access Every Texan's full report [here](#).*

Texan public school parents, regardless of our race, gender, or family income, care about our children's public schools and teachers. This Texas public school funding quick guide is designed to answer important questions about recapture and how the state legislature can do a better job investing in our children's futures.

## WHAT IS RECAPTURE (AKA ROBIN HOOD)

First, local property tax dollars are collected to meet a school district's budget (which is based on a complex formula – see full report). If a school district is unable to collect the full amount of allowed funding through taxes, the state makes up the difference. If a school district collects more revenue than allowed, the state “recaptures” or collects that excess revenue for redistribution within the education system – it becomes a part of state aid. Property-wealthy districts, like Austin, pay into recapture because their property tax revenue per student exceeds what the state says the district can have.

**If a district paying recapture is facing budget constraints, all districts are struggling. Recapture is not the problem. The real issue is that the Texas Legislature denies adequate resources for public education.**

## RECAPTURE TRUTHS FOR PARENTS:

- Districts that cannot collect enough property tax revenue to fund their district budget receive “state aid” which is partially made up of recapture dollars;
- Recapture dollars are part of a district's annual budget, not “extra” dollars allocated to a district on top of its budget;
- Recapture dollars are used exclusively for educational purposes and not allocated to any other state expenses.



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### WHAT IS THE ROOT PROBLEM WITH TEXAS' PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM?

The Texas Legislature has not formally assessed the cost of educating each student. **Elected officials need to prioritize our children's public education and increase the basic allotment per student.**

Assessing the true cost of education per student and increasing the basic allotment means all Texan public school districts will have adequate funding and districts won't have to worry about recapture dollars.

### HOW DO WE FIX THE ROOT PROBLEM AND HAVE AN ADEQUATELY FUNDED PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR EVERY STUDENT INCLUDING MY CHILDREN?

Elected officials must increase state dollars to improve school funding for all districts no matter where the district is located or how property wealthy or poor it is. Today, powerful elected officials have prioritized tax cuts over our schools. When school districts considered 'wealthy' by the state face budget cuts and teacher layoffs, this shows all districts are struggling. **Without an alternative source to replace property tax revenue lost to tax cuts, the quality of our public education system and our students pay the price.**

### WHAT CAN I DO TO ADVOCATE FOR A FULLY FUNDED EDUCATION FOR EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT, INCLUDING MY KID?

1. Call your Texas elected representatives and tell them that every single one of our students deserves a fully funded education and that increasing the public education basic allotment per student is a priority for you. Elected officials need to hear that we parents care about our children's education and want it fully funded.
2. Advocate alongside teachers and the teachers union; we're in this together! [Sign up here](#) for advocacy opportunities with the Texas AFT campaign, Respect Us, Expect Us:
3. Engage with your school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and organize an advocacy day at the Texas Capitol. Or volunteer with [Just Fund It TX](#).
4. Talk to other parents about recapture and why it's not the villain or the root problem.

### HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact us! We're here alongside you in this fight for a fully funded, quality public education for every Texas child.