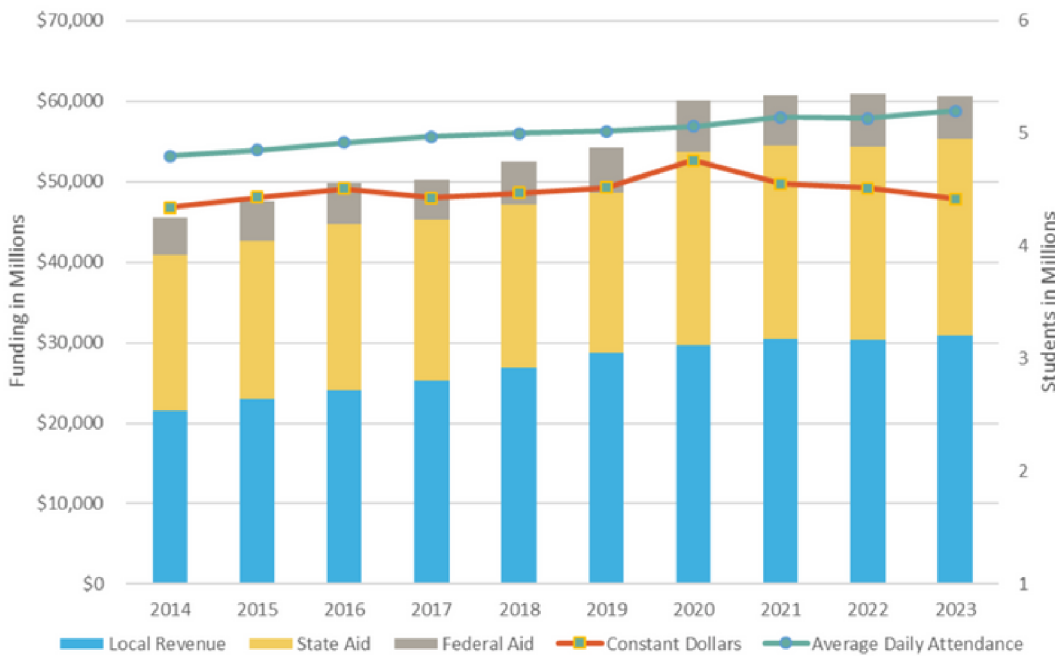




TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL SPENDING IS NOT KEEPING PACE WITH INFLATION

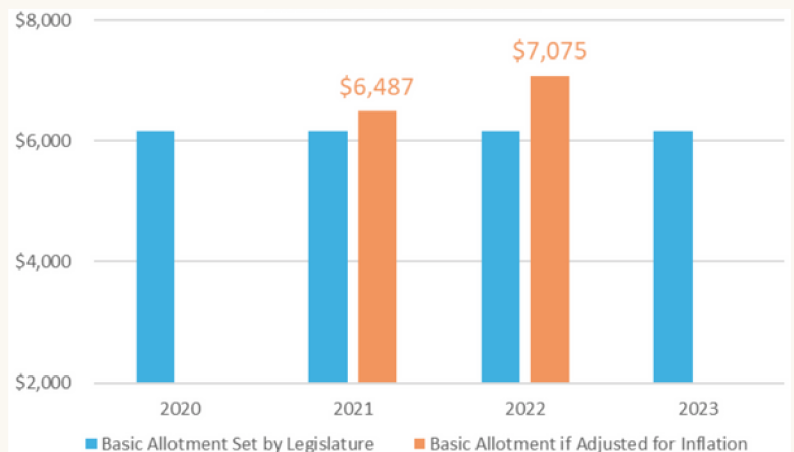
Although total revenue in real dollars increased over the past decade, public school spending did not keep pace with inflation and student population growth. In 2023, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) estimates that funding per student will be **\$1,058.60 less than it was in 2014** when adjusting for inflation.



Inflation-adjusted dollars (constant dollars) for Texas public schools slightly increased to an estimated \$47.9 billion in 2023 from \$46.8 billion in 2014. Meanwhile, the student population grew by almost half a million students to 5.2 million in 2023 from 4.7 million in 2014. Schools in 2023 will have \$9,207 per student compared to \$9,797 in 2014.

THE LEGISLATURE LEFT BASE LEVEL FUNDING STAGNANT FOR FOUR YEARS

House Bill 3, the school finance and tax-cut bill passed in 2019, set the basic allotment at \$6,160 – up from its previous level of \$5,140. Though not all of that increase was new money – some of it was from shifting revenue from other parts of the finance system – the new funds were roughly enough to cover one year of inflation. **In 2021, the Legislature took no action to adjust the basic allotment.**



When the Legislature reconvenes in 2023, **the basic allotment will have been stagnant for four years.** If the Legislature adjusted the basic allotment for inflation annually, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, the basic allotment would be **\$7,075 for the 2022-23 school year.**