



FAQs on Finance from the Teacher Walkout

Many people have asked questions about school finance in relation to the teacher walkout. Below are answers to the most frequently asked questions so far.

How much is the teacher walkout costing the district?

The teacher walkout has not created additional costs to the district. Schools are required by law to attend classes 1,080 hours. Duncan Schools builds extra instructional hours into its school calendar for emergency days that may be used for inclement weather or other circumstances. Teachers have been using the extra days built into the calendar up to this point. Students have lost instructional time, which we take very seriously. However, teachers have gained additional educational funding for students during the walkout. This money will benefit Duncan students in the years to come.

What about the assertion that districts have used textbook money for other costs instead of buying textbooks for students?

School districts purchase textbooks and instructional materials with a combination of funds from federal, state, and local funds, including bond funds. After 2016, textbook funds as a separate line item were cut from the Oklahoma State Department of Education budget by the Legislature. The textbook fund at the state level went from \$33 million to zero. The \$33 million was not replaced in the Oklahoma State Department of Education budget and it was not restored until this legislative session.

Prior to 2016, textbooks funds had traditionally been part of a legislative appropriated line item in the state education budget which totaled around \$33 million to meet the needs of all school districts across the state. Local districts received an allocation of textbook money from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The money was distributed based on total number of students enrolled in the district.

For Duncan, that money equaled around \$178,000 (FY16 Allocation) yearly. Those funds did not fully cover the costs of purchasing textbooks for the district. For example, a math textbook

series for grades K through 12 will cost the district around \$300,000. An individual student textbook may cost as much as \$100 to \$200, depending on the quality of the curriculum. By comparison, a Chromebook costs around \$290.00. Schools rely heavily on local bond funds to fully support textbook and technology purchases.

Our community passed two bond issues last spring. Why can't we use that money for teacher raises?

Schools must follow state law for use of all funds. By law, bond funds cannot pay teacher salaries or raises. By law, bond funds can only be used for the items described when citizens vote to approve the bond. The bond issues last spring went toward purchasing additional technology, security measures, and transportation for the district. We have accomplished all the goals from last spring's bond except two: purchase of additional buses and installing and updating security cameras and software. These two items will be accomplished in the 2018-2019 school year.

Where can I find more financial information for Duncan Public Schools?

Finance information for the district is transparent and available to the public on our website: duncanps.org under the *Departments* tab. Click *Business and Finance* and then go to *Financial Reports*. We are also available to help anyone understand more about school finance and the district's financial reports. You may call 580-255-0686 for more information.

For financial information about all schools in Oklahoma, you may visit the Oklahoma State Department of Education website here: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/school-finance>. You will find information about the Department's budget as well as a link to the State Auditor's website which publishes financial documents from every school district in the state.

Where can I find more information on recent revenue measures passed in the Legislature?

Multiple sources, such as the Oklahoma Policy Institute, have compiled information on past legislation and current funding measures from this session. For an FAQ on walkout legislation and previous funding measures see: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/capitol_report/teacher-walkout-q-a-school-funding-bills-the-lottery-school/article_16cc9f4a-4cc5-5b07-9845-e0a980450da1.html