Education

Who Needs School?
- Students
- Employers
- Society

Public Schools
Income inequality in Texas schools

Rodriguez case (1971)

– a federal court ruled that the variation between schools in Texas violated “equal protection of the law.”

1977 Texas begins to shift aid to poor districts


“Robin Hood” funding

Education Funding In Texas

In 2004-2005:
$36 billion state-wide
$8,349 per pupil

Local 53%
State 36%
Federal 11%

Reforms

No pass, no play
Teacher Testing
Charter Schools
Standardized Tests
Parental Choice/Vouchers
Charter Schools

Publicly financed
Operate under a contract or “charter” with the state
Brought to Texas in 1995
Exempt from many state regulations

Standardized Tests

You don't fatten a hog by weighing it.”

No Child Left Behind

Annual tests in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 as well as once in high school.
States have four years to ensure all teachers are qualified in their subject area.
Schools must develop “report cards” showing their standardized test scores compared with local and state schools.
Parental Choice/Vouchers
Brings the practices of free enterprise into public education
"Vouchers" would allow student to take money from the state to use as a scholarship to any school they choose.
Currently only allowed for students at "low performing" schools.

Higher Education

Higher Ed in Texas
Texas has 35 state universities, 7 medical schools, 4 law schools, 50 community/junior colleges and 4 campuses of the State Technical College System.
1.2 million students are enrolled in these schools.
Higher Education

Higher education funding in Texas lags below the national average.
– In 2002, Texas spent $470 per capita on higher education compared to the national average of $477.
– The share of the state spending allocated for higher education has fallen by nearly half since the early 1980s.

Texas Higher Education Funding

Source: Legislative Budget Board

Higher Education

Funding for community and junior colleges
– State provides 44%.
– Local property taxes provide 30%.
– Fees provide 26%.
State provides 22% of University of Texas system budget and 32% of Texas A&M University system budget.
University “Systems”
Rather than having a state-wide university system, Texas has several plus independents.

Who Shapes Higher Education?
Texas Legislature
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
– Oversees education and offers recommendations to Legislature
Each institution has a governing board

Higher Education
Permanent University Fund (PUF)
– PUF, a fund constitutionally established as an endowment to finance construction, maintenance, and other activities at the University of Texas (UT) and Texas A&M, and other institutions in the respective systems.
– Dividends and interest earnings from the PUF contribute to the Available University Fund which is distributed two-thirds to UT and one-third to Texas A&M.

Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF)
– In 1984, HEAF was established by constitutional amendment.
– HEAF is a fund dedicated for construction and other purposes at state-supported colleges and universities outside the UT and Texas A&M systems.
What’s Next?
In 2000 87% of respondents said that having a college education is as important as having a high school diploma was. 6 in 10 say a college degree is “absolutely necessary.”
But talk is cheap…

Rising Costs in Texas
Since 1992…
- Tuition at four-year schools has increased 63% (compared to 26% nation-wide)
- State appropriations per student has increase 19% (compared to 19% nation-wide)
- Median family income has increased 8% (compared to 14% nation-wide)

Nationwide
In 2000, low income family families spent 25% of their annual income for their children to attend a public four-year colleges, compared with 13% in 1980
Impact of Funding Shifts

More students are borrowing and those who borrow are borrowing more. Students who take loans must consider those majors that will help them pay off the loans.

Closing the Gap

Offshoring

What happens when more (and better) jobs move overseas in search of cheaper labor?