



# You Get What You Pay For

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Avg. Teacher salaries <sup>1</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>
Pupil-Teacher ratio in public schools <sup>2</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup>
State Aid Per Pupil <sup>3</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>
Secondary Teachers w/Degrees in the Subjects They Teach <sup>4</sup>	46 <sup>th</sup>
Avg. SAT Scores <sup>5</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>
High School Graduation Rate <sup>6</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Education Association, 2002-03

<sup>2</sup> Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, *Where We Stand 2003*

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Studies, 2001-02

adjusted by Education Week Research Center for regional cost differences.

<sup>4</sup> Quality Counts 2005, *Education Week*

<sup>5</sup> The College Board, 2004

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census, *Educational Attainment in the United States, 2003*

## You Get What You Pay For

Unless we adequately fund public education, Texas will continue to rank in the bottom half of the nation on key performance measures: 32<sup>nd</sup> in teachers' salaries, 38<sup>th</sup> in state aid per pupil, 48<sup>th</sup> in average SAT scores and 50<sup>th</sup> in number of high school graduates. Not only does this place our state on the margins of the new knowledge-based economy, but companies will not locate in a state where students do not graduate from high school or perform well on the SAT. If we do not improve current education outcomes in Texas, the state demographer predicts that Texas household incomes will decline \$5,000 by the year 2030. Is that the legacy that we want to leave for our children? Texas must commit the resources to fulfill its promise of a better future to our children: "Invest in Kids, Invest in our Future."