

Cost of Education Index at Austin ISD

The current CEI attempts to adjust for varying economic conditions across the state, based mainly on the size of the district, teacher salaries of neighboring districts and the percentage of low-income students in the district in 1989–90. The index has not been updated since then.

History

The concept of adjusting education funding for variations in cost began in a 1984 special legislative session with the creation of the Price Differential Index.

The State Board of Education was directed to create a replacement for this temporary index and undertook this in 1987, but the study was moved to the Legislative Education Board and the Legislative Budget Board in 1989.

The Foundation School Fund Budget Committee adopted rules based on research by LEB and LBB in 1991.

CEI Adjustment

Each school district is assigned a multiplier to compensate for geographic and cost differences beyond the control of the district.

All districts are assigned a value greater than 1.0, and they range from 1.02 to 1.20 with an average of 1.08.

Cost of Living in Austin

Austin's cost of living is astronomically higher when compared to its urban peers.

The Austin Metropolitan Area has among the highest costs of living in the state. The median price for a single-family home and median apartment rent in Austin are both higher than any other area of the state.

Since the time of the CEI adoption nearly 25 years ago, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in AISD has risen dramatically.

This reality, coupled with the high cost of living in the greater Austin area, the need to compete with increasing teacher compensation in surrounding districts and projected increases in health care costs, have widened the gap between the current CEI and what it should be, given current data.

Currently, AISD has one of the lowest CEI values in the state while simultaneously having one of the highest cost of living indexes in the state.

Cost of Education Index values in other Texas districts

School District	CEI Value
Brownsville ISD	1.19
Houston ISD	1.17
Aldine ISD	1.16
Alief ISD	1.16
Conroe ISD	1.16
Cy Fair ISD	1.16
Dallas ISD	1.16
Fort Bend ISD	1.16
Katy ISD	1.16
Pasadena ISD	1.16
Socorro ISD	1.15
Arlington ISD	1.14
El Paso ISD	1.14
Fort Worth ISD	1.14
Garland ISD	1.14
Lewisville ISD	1.14
San Antonio ISD	1.14
United ISD	1.14
Ysleta ISD	1.14
Plano ISD	1.13
Round Rock ISD	1.12
North East ISD	1.11
Austin ISD	1.10
Killeen ISD	1.10

Source: Texas Education Agency