

## In Strayhorn Attack Ad # 4: The Lies and Distortions Continue...

The truth about Strayhorn attack ad #4:

***“...State funding for education hasn't gone up.”***

**TRUTH:** Education spending has increased by over \$9 billion since Governor Perry was first elected.

- According to the 2002-03 Legislative Budget Board Fiscal Size-Up (Table 1 – All Funds Statewide Summary, pg. 2), \$31.1 billion was expended/budgeted for the 2000-01 biennium.
- According to the Legislative Budget Board Fiscal Size-Up (Table 1 – All Funds Statewide Summary, pg. 2), \$36.6 billion was appropriated for the 2006-07 biennium.
- According to these numbers, there was an increase in appropriated funding for public education between 2000-01 and 2006-07 of \$5.5 billion.
- The passage of HB1 during the 79th 3rd Called Session authorized an appropriation of \$3.8 billion in addition to previously appropriated funds (HB1, Enrolled, pg 143), bringing the total to \$9.3 billion.

In her “fact check” Strayhorn again claims that *“Mr. Perry has relied on local taxpayers to fund \$7 billion of the increased funding for education”* which is once again completely untrue.

Strayhorn does two things to reach this inaccurate conclusion. First, she references LBB fiscal size-up 2006-07 table 84 which shows a \$6.957 increase in local education spending. With the exception of recapture, **local money is never part of the appropriation process and is not counted in state spending on education.** This is not part of the \$9.3 billion in increased spending. Second, Strayhorn completely ignores the gains achieved in HB 1 during the May 2006 special session on school finance. HB 1 provided an additional \$3.8 billion in funding for public schools. The chart below expresses the General Revenue (GR) funds, other funds, recapture funds and federal funds that have flowed through the state to local school districts from 2000-01 biennium through the 2006-07 biennium:

	<u>Biennium</u>		<u>Increase</u>
	2000-01	2006-07	2000-01 -- 2006-07
GR & GR-Dedicated	\$ 25,401.5	\$ 25,311.8	
Other (less "recapture" funds)	\$ 235.6	\$ 860.9	
HB 1 General Revenue		\$ 3,825.0	
<b>Total, State Funds</b>	<b>\$ 25,637.1</b>	<b>\$ 29,997.7</b>	<b>\$ 4,360.6</b>
Local "recapture" funds	\$ 949.8	\$ 2,417.0	<b>\$ 1,467.2</b>
Federal Funds	\$ 4,520.2	\$ 8,079.8	<b>\$ 3,559.6</b>
<b>Total, All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 31,107.1</b>	<b>\$ 40,494.5</b>	<b>\$ 9,387.4</b>

*Sources: Fiscal Size-Up 2002-03 & 2006-07 Bienniums, GAA 79th and 76th Legislature and HB 1, 3rd Called Session, 79th Legislature*

**If, as Strayhorn suggests, we include education funding increases at the local level, then education funding would have increased by an additional \$11.7 billion (minus recapture) for a grand total of \$21 million in total increased spending on education from 2000 – 2007.**

See chart below:

Local Revenue	Recapture	Total increased local spending (minus recapture)
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2000-01	\$25,054,000,000	\$949,800,000	
2002-03	\$30,207,400,000	\$1,314,100,000	
2004-05	\$34,180,100,000	\$2,141,000,000	
2006-07	<u>\$38,251,400,000</u>	<u>\$2,417,000,000</u>	
<b>Difference between 2000-01 and 2006-07</b>	<b>\$13,197,400,000</b>	<b>\$1,467,200,000</b>	<b>\$11,730,200,000</b>

Source: Fiscal Size-up 2006-07, Table 84 and G.A.A. 76th and 79th Legislature.

Strayhorn also criticizes the use of federal funds in the calculation of the \$9.3 billion increase in education spending. However, the fact is that in order to receive federal funding, the state must maintain certain standards and meet specific accountability measures. **If, for instance, the state decided to water down the TAKS test as Strayhorn has proposed, Texas would lose a substantial amount of federal funds.** Therefore, it is appropriate that in any calculation federal funds are included because the state plays a pivotal role in obtaining those funds

***“And you cut health insurance benefits for teachers.”***

**TRUTH:** The state contribution to teacher health insurance has remained constant since its inception. In fact, the legislature appropriated \$58 million in additional funding for the retired teachers health program TRS-Care. Active teacher health premiums will not increase from the 05-06 to 06-07 school years. HB1 converted \$500 teacher health stipend to salary.

Texas Teachers received an across the board net salary increase of \$2,000 for the 2006-07 school year. This is over and above local pay increases and annual step increase mandated under the minimum teacher salary schedule. Furthermore, the average teacher salary information provided by the Comptroller is misleading because it does not include the \$2,000 pay raise to take effect in 2006-07, local pay increases made possible by additional funding provided through House Bill 1, step increases for this year and approximately \$110 million in incentive pay that will be distributed to school teachers this school year.

The Comptrollers’ own numbers show that during in 2003-04, the year that the legislature appropriated \$500 of the teacher health stipend to school districts, average teacher salaries increased from \$39,974 to \$40,476 or \$502.

HB 1 included a mandated pay raise of \$2,500 for teachers and other employees who are subject to the minimum salary schedule. This includes \$500 that was previously designated as supplemental compensation (which was repealed and replaced with wages). The net pay raise for teachers is \$2,000. This increase is part of the base salary and cannot be used as an incentive or stipend. The minimum salary schedule is increased by \$2,500 for teachers

***“Now 37,000 Texas teachers are leaving our classrooms every year.”***

**TRUTH:** Even Carole Strayhorn’s own website says that the total number of teachers has risen since Gov. Perry was Lt. Governor and the qualifications of the teachers have improved:

TOTAL TEACHER INCREASE - ([http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/teachersalary06/March 06](http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/teachersalary06/March%2006))  
Total teachers 98-99 - 259,738

Total teachers 04-05 - 294,258  
An increase of 34,520.

Texas Classroom Teachers by Highest Degree Held, 1998-99 and 2004-05

	1998-99 Count	% of Total	2004-05 Count	% of Total
No Degree	3,321	1.3%	3,176	1.1%
Bachelors	191,174	73.6%	226,981	77.1%
Masters	64,087	24.7%	62,637	21.3%
Doctorate	1,156	0.4%	1,464	0.5%

Source: TEA, AEIS.

***“Carole’s been a teacher. She cares about our children.”***

**TRUTH:** When Carole Strayhorn was a member of the Austin School Board “...the percentage of spending on classroom instruction dropped steadily while Rylander was a board member in the mid-1970s. In 1973, 65 cents of each dollar went to instruction. By 1977, the amount was 56.6 cents... Rylander campaign manager Scott McClellan did not dispute the figures...” (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 17, 1998)

***“So kids can learn and teachers can teach.”***

**FACT:** Even Louis Malfaro acknowledged, “Student achievement is up in Texas public schools.” (Strayhorn campaign press conference, 9/19/06)