



MYTH vs. REALITY: FAQ

HEAR IT FOR YOURSELF!

Start at 1:16:00 and Listen to Appropriations Committee TEA Commissioner's Testimony Regarding the Breakdown of All Funds Per Students in Texas from Tuesday, February 19, 2025.

MISCONCEPTION #2

"Funding is **not deducted for student absence**; rather different parts of funding are given based upon both enrollment and average attendance. Source: TEA"

REALITY

This statement is misinformation. While some funding is based on enrollment, a majority of funding depends on student attendance – which means schools lose money when students are absent.

How much of school funding is deducted for student absences and how much is based on enrollment? According to the 2024 Texas Education Agency Annual Report, 76.5% of school funding is tied to student attendance, not enrollment. Here's the breakdown of funding that depends on attendance:

Attendance-Based Allotment	Percentage of Overall Funding ¹
Regular Program / Basic Allotment	56.4%
Early Education	1.6%
School Safety	0.1%
Career and Technology	6.7%
Special Education	10.2%
Bilingual Education	1.5%
Total Attendance-based allotment	76.5%

1Percentages of attendance-based allotments from 2022-2023 Statewide Summary of Finances per Texas Education Agency.

What Does This Mean?

- Schools receive most of their funding **only when students are present**—not just because they are enrolled.
- The state references school funding **as if attendance were 100% all year**, but in reality, students miss school for various reasons.
- When attendance drops, **schools lose funding**, which affects teacher salaries, classroom resources, and student programs.

Rockwall ISD's Reality

- Rockwall ISD relies on **attendance-based funding even more than the state average—86.5% of its funding** is tied to student attendance.
- This means student absences have an even **greater financial impact** on Rockwall ISD than on many other districts.

BOTTOM LINE:

Is funding affected by student absences?

Yes. Schools **do** lose money when students are absent because most of their funding depends on daily attendance—not just enrollment.