

## **\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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# **Public schools are losing students while still padding budgets and staff**

*‘This shows how corrupt the system is and why parents are increasingly seeking alternatives like homeschooling, private schooling and charter schools,’ says USPIE Founder and President Sheri Few*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** — Public school enrollment is declining in America's most populous cities.

Despite the dip in attendance, however, school spending and school staff have increased in many urban districts, according to a new [report](#) by the Manhattan Institute.

*“This shows how corrupt the system is and why parents are increasingly seeking alternatives like homeschooling, private schooling and charter schools,” says Sheri Few, founder and president of United States Parents Involved in Education ([USPIE.org](http://USPIE.org)).*

*“Increasing the budgets for a failed system hurts all taxpayers, but it’s a real slap in the face to parents who choose to fund their own children’s education through homeschooling or in private schools.”*

Between 2013 and 2022, nationwide enrollment decreased by 2% from 49.9 million to 48.8 million, falling to some of the lowest points in decades, according to the Manhattan Institute’s recent [report](#) “Empty Desks: The Policy Response to Declining Public School Enrollment.”

The researchers found that even though enrollment has declined, school districts aren’t adjusting their staffing and budgeting to the reality of fewer students.

New York, Illinois and California had the largest student enrollment declines while Texas and Arizona saw the largest increases. Texas is expected to surpass California for the most public school students, but even the Lone Star State's four biggest cities, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and Austin, have seen slight declines over the last decade while increasing staffs and budgets.

*“This disparity doesn’t have to go on,” Few says. “State legislators can strictly align funding on a per-pupil basis in line with some benchmark, like average tuition rates for local private schools. This would reduce spending commensurate with enrollment and result in lower taxes.”*

“The causes of the decline in traditional public school enrollment are the subject of considerable debate,” the report said. “One cause seems to be the Covid-19 pandemic and the extent of remote learning. Another is simply that fewer children are being born. Still another is that more students are enrolling in private schools or the number of charter schools (which are nontraditional public schools) or are homeschooled. NCES reports that the number of charter schools increased from 4% to 7% of all students between 2010 and 2022.

“Another study, by the Brookings Institution, finds that the percentage of American students in “private/homeschooling/out of school” rose from 9.2% of K–12 students in the U.S. in 2015 to 12.8% in 2022.”

Over the past 60 years, the student-teacher ratio in public schools has fallen on average, from 26-to-1 in 1961 to 16-to-1 in 2020, the Manhattan Institute reported. Salaries and benefits for staff, including teachers and administrators, make up roughly 80% of school spending.

“Powerful teachers’ unions have long called for higher salaries for teachers instructing fewer students—and appear to have gotten what they’ve asked for,” the report concluded.

*“As I often say, the answer for taxpaying citizens who don’t want ‘woke’ education is two-fold,” Few says.*

*“1) Educate children at home or in private schools while 2) working as concerned citizens to shine a spotlight on the evils that schools commit in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and the sugar-coated LGBTQ agenda.*

*“Parents are a powerful voting bloc. They need to let legislators know they are fed up with the status quo of worse education for more money.”*

*United States Parents Involved in Education (USPIE)* is a nonprofit, nationwide coalition that seeks to return education to its proper local roots and restore parental authority over their children’s education by helping parents and local communities to escape federal and other national influences. It is the vision of *USPIE* to create a culture where parents, empowered with the authority to choose what and how their children learn, are the undisputed primary educators of their children, where local schools operate in support of families, and where education is unencumbered by federal mandates.

For more information on *United States Parents Involved in Education*, visit [www.uspie.org](http://www.uspie.org) or follow *USPIE* on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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