

Argument: But my tax dollars paid for this and I deserve to cash in on it.

According to <http://www.classesandcareers.com/education/2010/04/22/is-education-important-to-govt/> , less than 3% (2.4%) of the entire federal budget goes to education.

Education: The education subcategory combines three subfunctions of the education, training, employment, and social services function: elementary, secondary, and vocational education; higher education; and research and general educational aids (subfunctions 501, 502, and 503 respectively).

If your gross income was \$50,000 and you filed as married/joint, your federal taxes would be approximately \$8780 or 17.6%. Of those taxes, Medicare and SS would be \$3,825, leaving a tax base of \$4,955. Out of that amount, \$225, less than 3% would be directed toward education. Out of that 3%, only \$30 or 0.3% goes to accelerate academic achievement.

So far, your taxes have paid \$30. The expenditure per student in Oklahoma is approximately \$8,000 (\$7,885 actual).

[Per Pupil Expenditure | Federal Education Budget Project](#)

febp.newamerica.net/k12/rankings/ppexpend - Cached

Apr 6, 2011 - Per Pupil Expenditure 2009. Utah. \$6356. Puerto Rico. \$6483. Idaho. \$7092. Arizona. \$7813. Oklahoma. \$7885. Tennessee. \$7897 ...

Where does the remaining \$7,970 of the subsidy come from?

The majority of your property taxes does go toward education.

<http://okc.about.com/od/apartmentsandrealstate/ht/okpropertytax.htm>

Where Do Property Taxes Go? - Before calculating your Oklahoma property tax, a very common question is in reference to what is actually funded by property taxes. In Oklahoma, as in most states, property taxes are the primary funding ingredient for local governments and schools. Here is the breakdown by percentage:

- Schools - 59.22
- Tech Centers & Colleges - 12.76
- Cities & Towns - 11.43
- County - 9.49
- City/County Library - 4.74
- City/County Health - 2.36

<http://www.oklahomacounty.org/assessor/generalinfo.htm>

Tax Bill Example	
Taxable Market Value of Property:	\$50,000
Apply Assessment Ratio of (11%)	5,500
Less Homestead Exemption	(1,000)
=Net Assessed Value	4,500
Apply Tax Rate of \$100 per Thousand	\$450.00

So, if you have a home that has a taxable market value of \$50,000, your property taxes would be approximately \$450. Out of that amount, \$266.49 will go to education.

Now, your taxes on \$50,000 income have paid \$299.49 of the \$8,000 subsidy the government provides per child in Oklahoma.

Who pays the rest? Well, in reality, your neighbors do through their taxes, but once that tax money is transferred to Uncle Sam, it belongs to Uncle Sam, so technically, the government is almost totally funding public education, not the parent. At the income and real property base listed above, you can only claim \$299.49.

In order for the parent to rightfully say, “My taxes are paying for this and I deserve it,” he would have to gross well over \$1,000,000 annually and have a taxable property base of over \$1,000,000 to even come close to actually claim credit for funding just one child’s education.

How Are Charter Schools Funded?

http://www.edreform.com/Fast_Facts/Ed_Reform_FAQs/?Just_the_FAQs_Charter_Schools

Charter schools are public schools. Like district public schools, they are funded according to enrollment (also called average daily attendance, or ADA), and receive funding from the district and the state according to the number of students attending. The ways and amounts at which charters are funded compared to their district counterparts differ dramatically in an individual state and even in individual communities within a state. Nationwide, on average, charter schools are funded at 61 percent of their district counterparts, averaging \$6,585 per pupil compared to \$10,771 per pupil at conventional district public schools. For more information and state-by-state funding comparisons, go to [Following the Money](#).

Do Charter Schools Take Money from Public Schools? Charter schools *are* public schools. When a child leaves for a charter school be it brick and mortar or virtual, the money follows that child.

Oklahoma averages \$7,885 per student. According to HSLDA, approximately 5% (\$394.25) of that goes to the supporting school district for administrative fees. That leaves \$7490.75. One virtual charter boasts that they will give homeschool families \$1,000 toward curriculum, laptops, internet, and extracurricular activities. If I only have one child, that \$1,000 seems reasonable for an entire year of curriculum, internet service, and a new laptop. What if I have two or three children I am enrolling? They only have to pay the internet service once, not three times, which gives them a surplus of say, \$480 (at \$40/month internet) per child above the first. Now, if I go into a second year, are they going to provide another new computer for each child and do the same for subsequent years? That seems a waste of money. Do you keep the curriculum from year to year so it can be reused for siblings coming up in the ranks or do the books have to be turned back in at the end of each year?

Any way you look at it, that leaves the company running the virtual school \$6,490.75 minimum per child each year. What do they do with the rest of the funds?

Virtual schools are just that, virtual. There is no building, therefore no janitors, maintenance, insurance, etc... There are no students, so no need for lunches (so why do they require a free and reduced lunch form be filled out?), cafeteria workers, busses, drivers, or playground equipment. Yes, they will rent an office somewhere, and a hire few staff to maintain that office; there will be the teachers (who make one lesson plan and send it out to the masses) that will have conferences with students the required 3-5 hours a week, and the governing board, all of which will assumedly receive a salary. Of course, office equipment will be a necessity, and furniture, etc...

One virtual charter we know this spring boasted of 305 enrolled. Multiply that times \$6,490.75 and you get \$1,978,678.75. That will pay a lot of rent, and that is just one small virtual school.

Another virtual school, just a few weeks ago boasted that they had over 1,500 students scrambling to pick out curriculum after they were told they could not use the faith-based curriculum promised. You can do the math on that one (\$9,736,125) and it did not include any students that were not using faith-based curriculum. No wonder they are flooding the media with advertisement! This is a moneymaking business.

Hmmm...food for thought.