

Current Education Opportunity in HD 17, Rep. Gerdes And The Need for Parent Empowerment

Students should graduate high school ready for college, a career, or the military. To achieve this goal, collaboration between parents and teachers is crucial. Parents must be given transparency, quality educational options, respect, and the ability to choose what is best for their children.

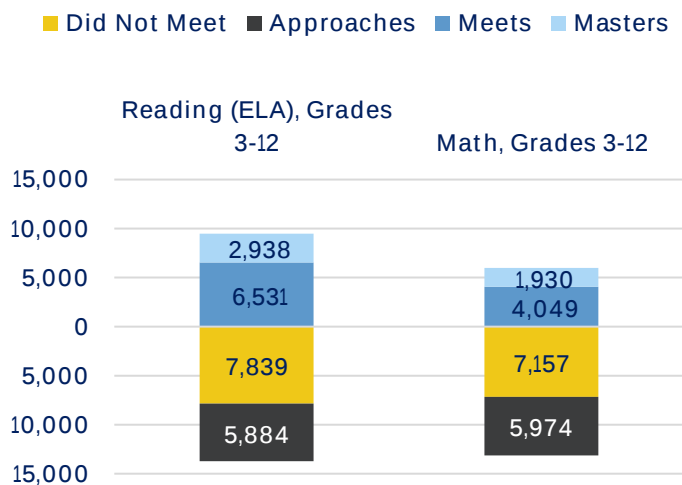
Educational Quality in House District 17, 2023-2024 School Year

Reading and math proficiency is one key sign of quality. Of all students in House District 17:

- 13,723 (59.2%) are below grade level in Reading (ELA), and
- 13,131 (68.7%) are below grade level in Mathematics.

Students at Approaches or Did Not Meet will need targeted intervention to succeed in the next grade. Statewide, 97% of students who fall behind do not catch up.

Students on Grade Level in HD 17
Schools, 2023-24 School Year

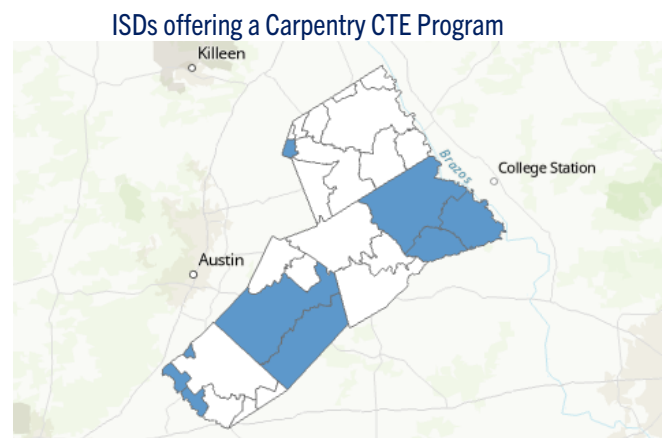


Note: Data from Texas Education Agency.

Workforce Opportunities and Development within House District 17

Workforce Development Area 15		
In-Demand Trade	Jobs Open Each Year	ISD Completers
Carpentry	364	91
Electrical	347	17
Automotive	278	11
Top 3 Total	989	119

Note: Data from Texas Workforce Commission.



Note: Data from Texas Education Agency.

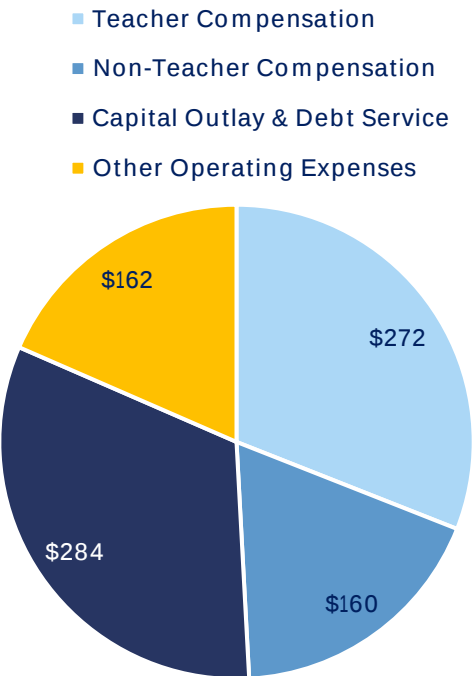
School District Expenditures in House District 17

Leaders should ask how well resources - people, time, and money - are deployed to meet student needs. ISDs in HD 17 spent \$19,394 per student. Of this, spending consists

- 31% (\$6,009) for teacher salaries & benefits;
- 18% (\$3,523) on salaries & benefits for non-teachers, esp. administrative, clerical, facilities, & counseling staff;
- 18% (\$3,581) for other operating costs, esp. consumable supplies, technology, & consultants; and
- 32% (\$6,281) for capital and debt service.

Parents best know their children and should have a central role in deciding how people, time, and money are deployed to support their education.

Expenditures of ISDs in House District 17, 2023-2024 School Year (in millions)



Note: Data from Texas Education Agency.

Texas Republican Voters support Parental Empowerment in March 2024

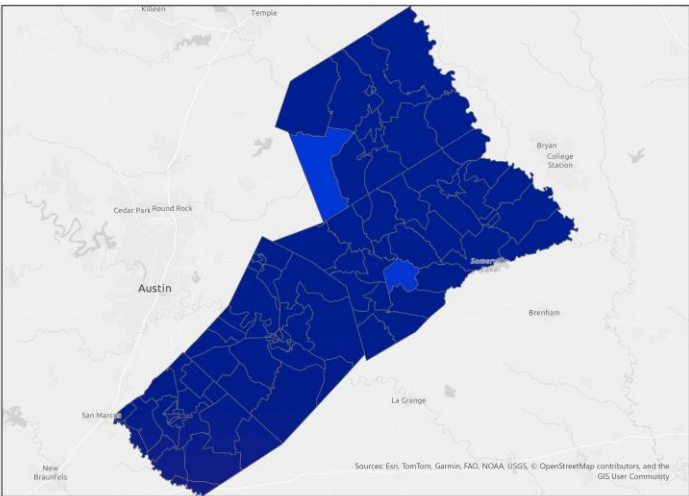
In 2024, Texans voted on this proposition:

"Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student."

Across House District 17, 83% of Republican primary voters said yes. To improve opportunities for all students, parents need to be empowered with transparency, quality, respect, and choice.

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Voter Support for Proposition 11, by Precinct



Note: Data from Public Information Requests to Texas Counties.