

Student 1

You really feel for the students and the teachers. I am sure the teachers did not really want to strike and have kids miss school, but at what point do you get fed up? If even the governor recognizes that teachers are underpaid, and have been for quite some time, why not put pressure on the school boards to do more?

For example, in a New York Times article:

"Organizers say teachers are so poorly paid in the state that some must take second jobs to make ends meet. In 2016, the average salary for a teacher in West Virginia was \$45,622, ranking it 48th in the country, according [to the National Education Association](#)."

Another teacher stated: "I live 40 miles from Virginia, 40 miles from Maryland," she said. "All we have to do is cross those lines and we can make \$12,000 or \$15,000 more, plus those benefits."

I get that many communities are strapped for cash, and that finding money for schools is difficult. However, as a society, we need to decide where our priorities are at. If we fund education so poorly, why are we surprised our standardized test scores are low compared to the rest of the world? If you want to be a leading nation, you need to have students that can compete in a globalized workforce. I believe if you pay the teachers a wage commensurate with their value, you will see a noticeable change for the better - economically, socially, and politically.