



EDU 6307: Emerging Issues in Education

Financing Schools (Equity or Disparity) Short Paper Guidelines and Rubric

Overview:

In the State of Texas, school finance reform has been a continuous and massive work in progress for the Texas House and Senate over the past two years. House Bill 21 from 2017 proposed \$1.7 billion dollar decrease in funding for public schools. Despite the disappointment that they didn't receive as much funding as they had hoped, policymakers believed this effort was a step in the right direction. Discussions continued and school finance reform was again debated in January of 2019. In 2019, the Texas House proposed \$7 billion more in state funding for K–12 public schools (a 17% increase). Policymakers believe this would require reforming how the state currently pays for public schools (the Robin Hood System). In this short paper assignment, you will have the opportunity to reflect on the school finance reform efforts in Texas and its Robin Hood System.

Directions:

First read the two articles and watch the short video below for context on the issue:

- [“Disappointed” House Accepts Changes to School Finance Bill](#)
- [Texas House Proposes Massive Increase for Public School Funding](#)
- [VERIFY: Is Robin Hood School Funding Broken?](#) (6:49)

Then write a one-page paper that reflecting on school finance reform efforts in Texas and the debate over dismantling the Robin Hood System. Your paper must clearly communicate your thoughts in response to the following question: How will large urban or small rural school districts “make it” or survive if the Robin Hood System is dismantled? Support your position with references to the module’s lesson and assigned resources.

Guidelines for Submission: Your paper must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document, about one page in length, with double spacing, 12-point font, and one-inch margins. Sources should be cited in APA format.

Instructor Feedback: This activity uses an integrated rubric in Blackboard. Students can view instructor feedback in the Grade Center.



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Rubric

Criteria	Exemplary (100%)	Needs Improvement (75%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Impact	Discusses how large urban or small rural school districts will “make it” or survive if the Robin Hood System is dismantled.	Discusses how large urban or small rural school districts will “make it” or survive if the Robin Hood System is dismantled, but may be lacking in detail or clarity.	Does not discuss how large urban or small rural school districts will “make it” or survive if the Robin Hood System is dismantled.	60
Support	Supports position with references to the module’s lesson and assigned resources.	Supports position but references may be inappropriate or inaccurate.	Does not support position.	30
Mechanics	No grammar or spelling errors that distract the reader from the content. All sources used are cited using APA Style, 6th ed.	Minor errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. All sources used are cited using APA Style, 6th ed.	Major errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content and/or errors made in citing sources using APA Style, 6th ed.	10
Total =				100 %