

Dear Neighbor:

Test scores are going down, enrollment is declining, veteran principals are leaving, and taxes are continuing to rise. There's an uncomfortable truth that more people in our town need to know: **all is not well in Evanston's public schools.**

We are a diverse group of Evanstonians—parents, teachers, longtime residents, and proud D65 & ETHS alumni—who are deeply concerned about the state of our public schools.

We've created this newsletter, which aggregates data about D65 & D202 and summarizes reporting on schools from our local papers, to help more Evanstonians get a picture of what is happening.

This issue highlights what to some appear to be misguided spending priorities by D65, with the amount spent over the last five years on administrators—headquarters staff, principals and assistant principals—increasing markedly, with spending on classroom teachers and other student-facing staff, such as reading specialists, staying flat.

D65 Spending on Administrators Increases Markedly—While Spending on Teachers Stays Flat

A [recent article in the Evanston RoundTable](#) alerted us to the fact that District 65 is increasing spending on administrators, while keeping the spending on teachers flat. This is happening against the background of dropping enrollment.

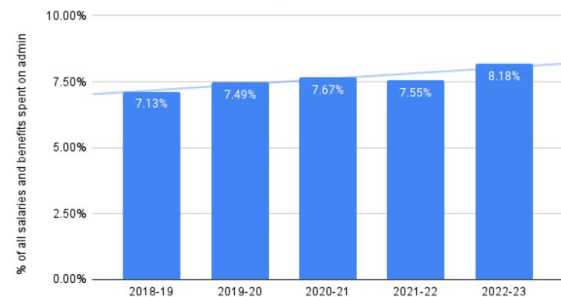
According to a RoundTable analysis of employment records obtained through a FOIA request, the number of administrators increased from 46 in 2018-19 to 60 now, with the total cost of their positions increasing from \$7.1 million in 2018-19 to \$10.1 million for the current year. The RoundTable also reported that the total cost of these positions, as a percentage of all salaries and benefits, rose from 7.13% to 8.18% during this period. For context, about 6.6% of all dollars spent on public education in the US has gone toward administration each year since 2000, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Among the administrative positions recently added at District 65 are executive director of communications, student services coordinator, director of professional learning, bilingual program director, director of multi-tiered systems of support and social-emotional learning, and diverse learning coordinator.

Meanwhile, the number of teachers for all intents and purposes stayed flat, increasing from 633 in 2018-19 to 637 in the current year.

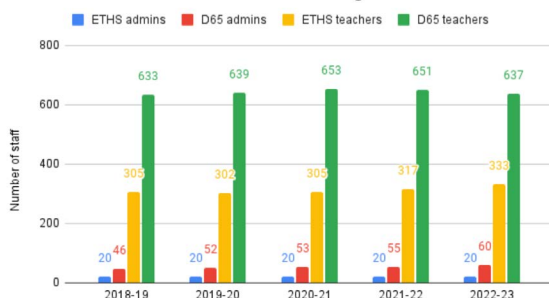
To put this in perspective, during the same five-year period, Evanston Township High School employed 20 administrators every year, including in 2022-2023. This year, District 65 has a ratio of about 10 teachers for every administrator, while ETHS has a little more than 16 teachers for each administrator.

% of all salaries and benefits spent on administration



RoundTable Analysis

D65 vs. ETHS administrative and teaching staff



RoundTable Analysis

For additional reporting on District 65, check out Substack [FOIA Gras](#) by an Evanstonian Tom Hayden.

You may be interested to learn about the following three challengers running for the District 65 Board: [Ndona Muboyayi](#), [Omar Salem](#), and [John Martin](#). Read about their backgrounds and goals and support them if their message resonates with you.

Thank you to the many people who have already signed up online to receive this newsletter.

If you haven't yet signed up, please go to www.evanston-schools-update.org. And feel free to share this issue or the previous ones.

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