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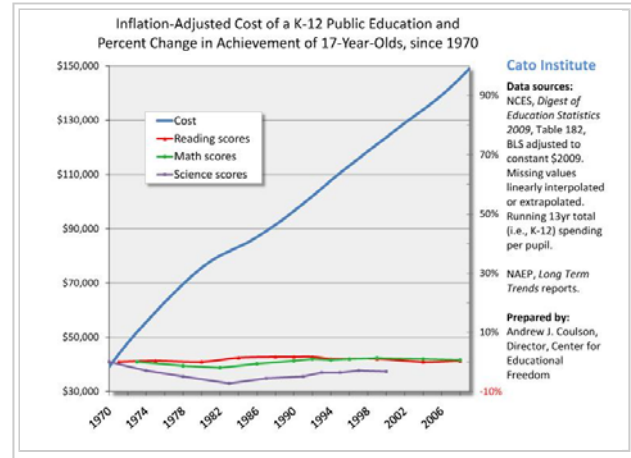
\$10 Billion Buys A Lot Of Votes...Er...Teachers!

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**By NEAL McCLUSKEY
For The Bulletin**

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It must be that a majority of Senate members are desperate to appease teachers' unions and other public-school employees, because that's all that can explain passing a \$10 billion public-school bailout. One thing that absolutely can't explain it is an informed desire to help kids or taxpayers, because we've been adding staff by the bucket-load for decades without improving achievement one bit.



Since 1970 (see charts below), public school employment has increased 10 times faster than enrollment, while test scores have stagnated. And even if there were some rational reason to believe that we need to keep staffing levels sky-high despite getting no value for it, lots of jobs could be saved without a bailout if unions would just accept pay concessions like millions of other Americans. But none of that matters in Washington.

Indeed, paying off education special interests is so important to House members that many will be taking a rare emergency break from campaigning to scamper back to DC to send more taxpayer dough to unneeded public-school staffers. It's all just part of the one education race that Washington is always running, and it isn't to the top: it's the incessant race to buy votes.

Neal McCluskey is the Associate Director of the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom.

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