

- [Welcome](#)
 - [Home](#)
 - [About Us](#)
 - [RSS Feed](#)
 - [Updates by Email](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)

[« Daily Headlines for April 26, 2010](#)

[The sky is falling](#)

[Commentary](#) by edspresso, [Yesterday, 5:28 PM](#)

If you've picked up a newspaper or turned on the evening news lately, it's been all doom and gloom for schools, teachers and the future of American education.

First, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) [tag teamed behind Education Stimulus 2.0](#) in a hearing on the ED budget, claiming that another \$23 billion is "absolutely necessary" to save up to 300,000 teacher jobs, proving that everyday is Christmas for the unions (I guess last year's \$100 billion just wasn't enough).

Then the NEA [asked us to remember the children](#).

Tons of federal money + jobs + children + tears + zero historical context = Media Tsunami

Former CER colleague Neal McCluskey, however, actually grabs the data and [puts it all into perspective](#):

For one thing, in 2007-08 public schools employed more than 6.2 million people; even the 300,000 figure is tiny compared to that huge number.

More importantly, preceding our schools' few recent years of financial woe were [decades of decadent plenty](#). According to inflation-adjusted federal data, in 1970-71 Americans spent \$5,593 per public-school student. By 2006-07 we were spending \$12,463 – a whopping 123 percent increase that bought lots of teachers, administrators, and other shiny things!

And, he points out, it hasn't bought the student achievement demanded or intended.

[SHARE](#)
[Sphere: Related Content](#)

Tags: [Arne Duncan](#), [education reform](#), [Neal McCluskey](#), [schools](#), [Secretaryh of Education](#), [teachers unions](#), [Tom Harkin](#)


Leave a reply



Name

Mail (will not be published)

Website




stop spam.
read books.

Submit Comment

• Search

• Morning Shots

- [Daily Headlines for April 26, 2010](#)

Clash of the Titans in 'Race to the Top' (Wall Street Journal), A smart alternative to traditional schools (The Oklahoman), Time to try vouchers (Belleville News Democrat) and much more in today's News Clips...

• Get the Latest

Receive edspresso updates
and news clips by email:

Enter email

or  [Subscribe via RSS](#)

• Food for Thought

- [The sky is falling](#)
- [Changing my tune on 'Race to the Top'](#)
- [Used cars at new car prices!](#)
- [Snowe-d under](#)
- [Lost in space](#)

• Categories

- [Commentary](#)
- [Debates](#)
- [Election 2008](#)
- [News Clips](#)
- [Our View](#)
- Archives
 - [2010](#)
 - [2009](#)
 - [2008](#)
 - [2007](#)
 - [2006](#)
- Other Education Blogs
 - [Baltimore Sun \(MD\)](#)
 - [EdWeek Blogs](#)
 - [Passing Notes](#)
 - [Education Policy Blog](#)
 - [Change Agency](#)
 - [Educational Discourse](#)
 - [D-Ed Reckoning](#)
 - [Oakland Tribune \(CA\)](#)
 - [Education Matters US](#)
 - [St. Petersburg Times \(FL\)](#)
- [Full Blogroll](#)

edspresso served up hot by



Ads by Google

[Pell Grants for Moms](#)

You May Qualify for Pell Grants to Earn a Degree Online. Start Today!

www.ClassesandCareers.com

[Free Pell Grant Guide](#)

Move your career forward with an accredited online degree!

www.CourseAdvisor.com

[Become a Teacher Online](#)

Become a Public School Teacher 100% Online! Financial Aid is Available.

www.Teachers.us.com

[School Vouchers for MD](#)

Tell legislators to support a new scholarship program for MD kids.

capwiz.com/federationforch

[Don't pay for school](#)

Get A Scholarship For Free. Millions Are Available For You!

ProgramAdvisor.com/Scholarship

edspresso brought to you by [The Center for Education Reform](#); design adapted from [Water theme](#) for WordPress

[Atom](#) — [Entries RSS](#) — [Comments RSS](#)