



Table 7. State rankings, number of full-time equivalent teachers for every district-level official and administrator, Fall 2001.

When people complain about a bloated education bureaucracy, they don't usually mean secretaries, custodians and bus drivers. Though the figures in Table 6 suggest that certain states need to closely examine those areas of personnel management, most observers have a perception that public education is top-heavy, that there are too many administrators and officials relative to other workers. This, I might add, is a perception usually shared by both advocates and critics of public education. No one is more vocal about administrative bloat than the president of a state teachers' union.

Does this perception have a basis in reality? Since the number of state and county administrative officers cannot be determined from the data available, Table 7 concentrates purely on the number of teachers for every school district administrator and official. Note that these numbers include only classroom teachers, and only district officers. There are no secretaries, instruction specialists, support staff or others to be found. For Fall 2001, the U.S. average was 47.3 teachers for every district administrator. But, as you can see, the spread is astonishing.

Utah somehow manages to get by with one administrator for every 133 teachers, while bordering New Mexico requires one for every 17.5 teachers. Pennsylvania and Ohio have almost the same number of teachers, but Ohio has almost four times as many district administrators. If we were able to break these figures down further, we may find that a large number of these administrators are administering support functions, such as transportation or food service. Whatever the differing circumstances, it would be refreshing to hear someone call for a state's teacher/administrator ratio to be raised to the national average, instead of always concentrating on money.



Table 7. State rankings, number of full-time equivalent teachers for every district-level official and administrator, Fall 2001 (Derived from Table 80 – Digest of Education Statistics 2003, National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education)

U.S. 47.3					
1)	South Carolina	171.4	27)	Arkansas	49.2
2)	Utah	133.0	28)	Michigan	47.43
3)	Louisiana	125.6	29)	Colorado	47.41
4)	Arizona	119.2	30)	Washington	45.2
5)	Idaho	113.6	31)	Alabama	37.7
6)	California	112.2	32)	Nebraska	36.9
7)	Massachusetts	105.4	33)	Iowa	35.62
8)	District of Columbia	101.0	34)	Texas	35.55
9)	Hawaii	79.2	35)	Oregon	35.3
10)	Florida	78.5	36)	Kentucky	33.3
11)	Pennsylvania	75.1	37)	Illinois	32.7
12)	Nevada	70.9	38)	Mississippi	32.2
13)	New York	70.8	39)	Virginia	32.1
14)	Montana	69.4	40)	Connecticut	31.8
15)	Wisconsin	64.2	41)	New Hampshire	30.8
16)	Indiana	60.6	42)	Maine	29.9
17)	Maryland	59.8	43)	Alaska	29.4
18)	West Virginia	59.4	44)	Delaware	28.9
19)	Vermont	58.6	45)	Wyoming	28.0
20)	Oklahoma	57.6	46)	Minnesota	27.8
21)	New Jersey	55.9	47)	Kansas	26.3
22)	Rhode Island	55.8	48)	South Dakota	21.4
23)	North Carolina	53.5	49)	Ohio	19.7
24)	Georgia	52.6	50)	North Dakota	18.6
25)	Tennessee	52.2	51)	New Mexico	17.5
26)	Missouri	52.0			