From Debut to Final Curtain: Investment in Highschool Theatre is Investment in our Future

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Investing in theatre is investing in the emotional, academic, and social success of our youth

The Benefits of Theatre

Boosts empathy and confidence

Reduces anxiety

Improves teamwork and self-awareness

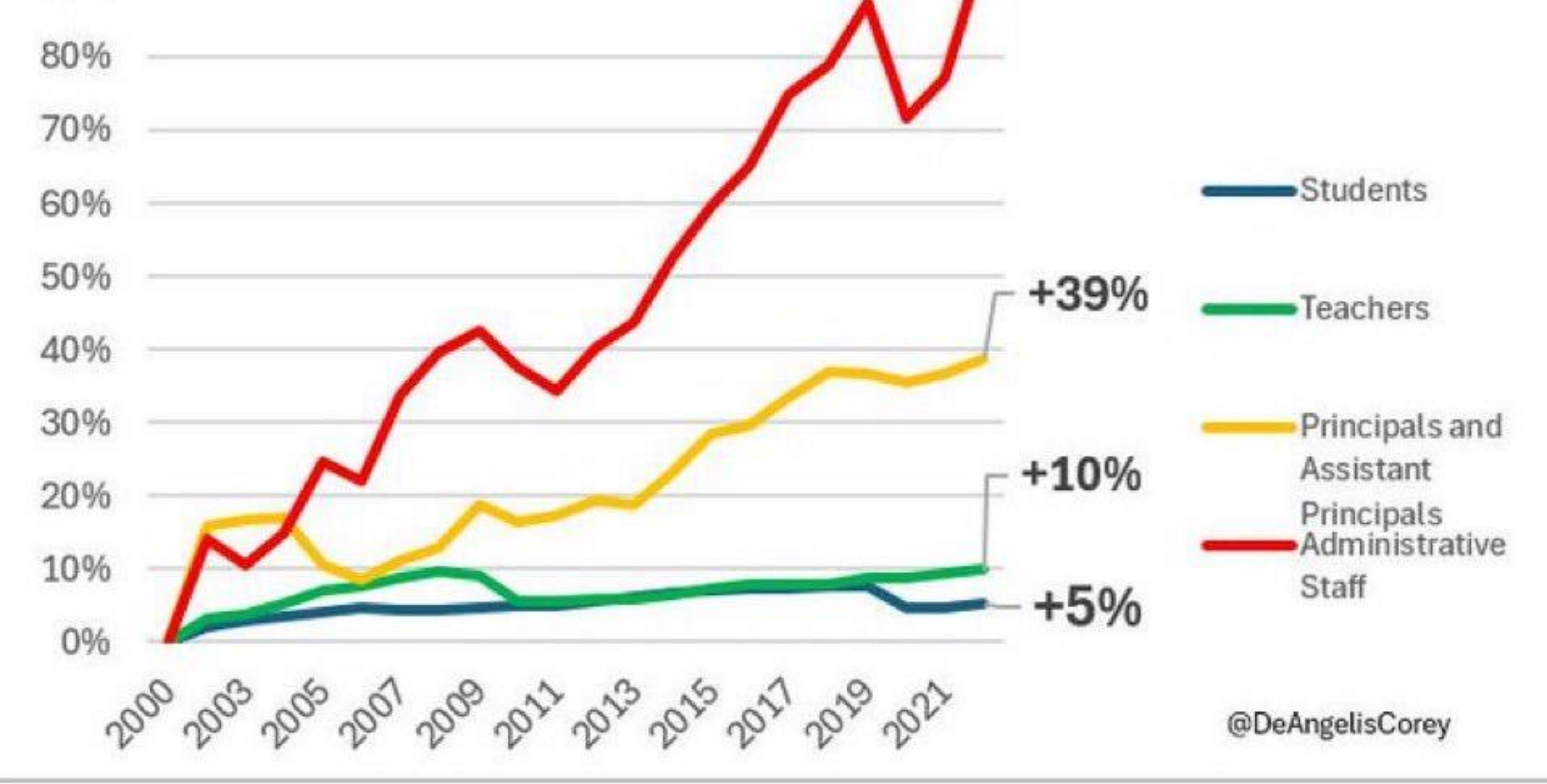
Taking Centre Stage states, ""“. . . youth theatre developed participants’ skills in storytelling (80 per cent), improvising (78 per cent) and writing (58 per cent)”

Academic Benefits

- Higher reading comprehension
- Better attendance
- Improved ACT/SAT scores

Why Do Theatre Programs Get Sidelined?

“If a change is made, ‘Mississippi could invest over $144 million per year into public school classrooms by reaching the national average for percentage of education funds spent inside the classroom,’ providing pay raises of $4,500 to every teacher in the state” (2024). - Shad White, Mississippi state auditor

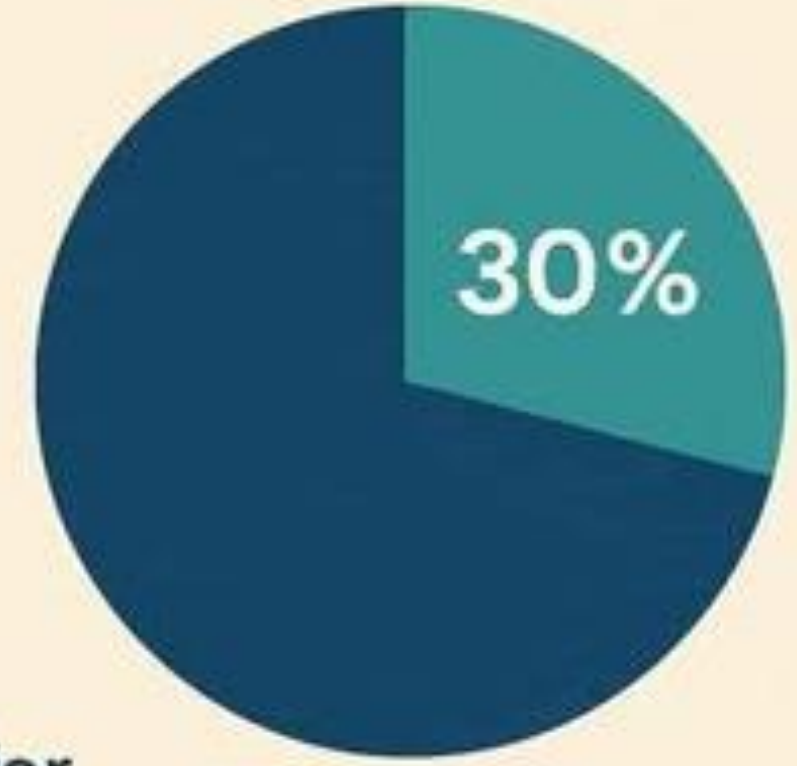


Sources: Digest of Education Statistics. National Center for Education Statistics. Table 213.10. Staff employed in public elementary and secondary school systems, by type of assignment: Selected school years, 1949-50 through fall 2022.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SECTOR

Total employment in 2023:
13 million

Number of teachers:
3,8 to 4 million



Teaching positions account for
about 30% of education jobs

According to the Clinton public school district's CPSTD superintendent Dr. Andy Schoggin, "As stewards of the tax dollars for our community, our obligation is clear – prioritize student success by keeping administrative costs lean and efficient," (2025).

Community Advocacy

1

Attend school board meetings

2

Use Transparency Mississippi

3

Join advocacy groups (Mississippi Parents Campaign, Teach Plus)

Theatre Builds Community

Theatre ties communities together and brings out the best in people

The Time to Act is Now

For the sake of Mississippi's future – every child should have the opportunity to shine