

## Measuring America

### Spending on Education

Education spending is the single largest financial activity of state and local governments. Education finance statistics provided by the Census Bureau allows analysts to study how public elementary-secondary school systems receive funding and how these school systems spend their funds. The statistics come from the Survey of School System Finances that's part of the Census of Governments.

Public PreK-12 School System Spending in 2012 Totaled \$524 Billion

Instruction (\$316.6 billion, 60%)

Salaries and wages \$206.7 billion, Benefits \$75.9 billion, Miscellaneous \$34.0 billion

Support Services (\$179.8 billion, 35 %)

Salaries and wages \$89.4 billion, Miscellaneous \$56.1 billion, Benefits \$34.3 billion

Other (\$27.5 billion, 5 %)

"Instruction" includes any activities that deal with the direct interaction of teachers and students.

"Support Services" are activities that provide administrative, technical, or logistic support to facilitate instructional activities. "Other" includes food services, enterprise operations, community services, and adult education.

### Spending per Pupil by State

#### U.S. Spending per Pupil (Bar Graph)

New York \$19,552

District of Columbia \$17,468

Alaska \$17,390

New Jersey \$17,266

Connecticut \$16,274

Vermont \$16,040

Wyoming \$15,897

Massachusetts \$14,142

Rhode Island \$14,005

Delaware \$13,865

Maryland \$13,609

New Hampshire \$13,593

Pennsylvania \$13,340

Maine \$12,189

Hawaii \$12,054

Illinois \$12,015

North Dakota \$11,679

West Virginia \$11,445

Louisiana \$11,379

Nebraska \$11,275

Ohio \$11,204

Wisconsin \$11,042

Michigan \$10,855

Minnesota \$10,796

Virginia \$10,656

Montana \$10,464

Iowa \$10,038

Kansas \$9,748

Indiana \$9,719

Washington \$9,637

Oregon \$9,490

Montana \$9,436

Arkansas \$9,411

Kentucky \$9,391

Georgia \$9,247

California \$9,183  
South Carolina \$9,147  
New Mexico \$8,899  
Alabama \$8,562  
Colorado \$8,548  
South Dakota \$8,446  
Florida \$8,372  
Tennessee \$8,294  
Texas 8,261  
Nevada \$8,223  
North Carolina \$8,200  
Mississippi \$8,164  
Arizona \$7,559  
Oklahoma \$7,466  
Idaho \$6,659  
Utah \$6,206

Public PreK-12 School System Spending per Pupil: Fiscal Years 1992 – 2012 (Chart)

1992	\$5,001
1993	\$5,177
1994	\$5,363
1995	\$5,494
1996	\$5,656
1997	\$5,882
1998	\$6,137
1999	\$6,458
2000	\$6,836
2001	\$7,284
2002	\$7,701
2003	\$8,019
2004	\$8,287
2005	\$8,701

2006	\$9,138
2007	\$9,666
2008	\$10,259
2009	\$10,499
2010	\$10,615
2011	\$10,608
2012	\$10,608

As the nation entered a recession, per pupil spending leveled out.

Note: These data have not been adjusted for inflation. Spending shown is for current spending only (not total spending) and is comprised of expenditures for the day-to-day operations of schools and school systems for public elementary and secondary education (PreK-12). To improve comparability across states, expenditures associated with debt service and capital outlays (for example, purchase of land, school construction and repair, and equipment) are not included in current spending amounts. Expenditures for community services and adult education are also not included in current spending amounts.

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce

Economics and Statistics Administration

U.S. Census Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments: Finance- Survey of School System Finances

<http://www.census.gov/govs/school>

Census.gov

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