

PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEFINITION: Per-pupil expenditure is the total amount of current expenditures per student, excluding equipment costs, facilities acquisitions and construction services costs, and debt service costs. For the sake of comparability, all figures for the 2001-2002 school year were adjusted for inflation (to reflect 2005 dollars) using the Consumer Price Index.

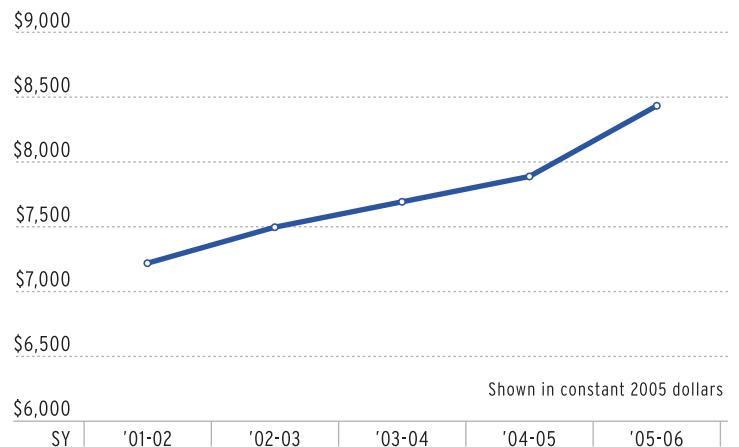
SIGNIFICANCE

In order to succeed academically, children need schools with adequate resources to meet their needs. School spending varies widely among both states and school districts. Nationwide, the average per-pupil expenditure was \$9,138 in the 2005-2006 school year. With an average per-pupil expenditure of \$8,402, Louisiana spent \$736 less than the national average per student.¹ In 2005-2006, Louisiana ranked 30th among 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of the per-pupil expenditures, an improvement from its ranking of 43rd in the 2000-2001 school year.^{2,3}

Schools rely on a combination of federal, state, and local dollars to fund services for students, resulting in large variances both within and among states with regard to education funding levels. Nationally, 47% of school revenue comes from state sources, 44% from local sources and 9% from federal sources. In Louisiana, a smaller percentage of revenue comes from state and local sources (42% and 40%, respectively), while 18% of revenues come from federal sources.⁴ The federal government provides states with funding for education through several different programs, including Title I, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the school lunch program. State revenues for education include unrestricted grants provided through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), restricted grants to support programs ranging from special education services to early childhood programs, and revenue in lieu of taxes provided by the state to compensate for losses due to the homestead exemption. Local revenue sources for education include property taxes and local sales taxes.⁵

Just as per-pupil expenditures vary widely among states (from a low of \$5,437 in Utah to a high of \$14,884 in New York), there are large differences among parishes in terms of school funding. Three parishes—St. Charles, Tensas, and Jackson—spent more than \$10,000 per student in the 2005 school year. Conversely, per-pupil expenditures were less than \$7,000 in four

PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN LOUISIANA School years 2001-2005



parishes—Avoyelles, Livingston, St. Martin and Acadia. Public schools in Tensas Parish spent 1.7 times as much per pupil as did public schools in Avoyelles Parish in 2005-2006.

Per-pupil expenditures increased over time in nearly every parish, even after accounting for inflation. Measuring in constant 2005 dollars, four parishes (St. Helena, Avoyelles, West Baton Rouge, and Catahoula) saw declines in their per-pupil expenditures between the 2001 and 2005 school years. By contrast, twenty parishes saw real increases of more than \$1,000 in per-pupil spending during the same time period.

DATA SOURCE

Department of Education, Division of Education Finance

DATA NOTE

Data for City of Baker and City of Zachary school districts are reflected in East Baton Rouge data. Data for the City of Monroe district are reflected in data for Ouachita Parish. Data for the City of Bogalusa district are reflected in data for Washington Parish. Data for lab schools and all other charters are not included in the parish-level data, but are included in the statewide data.

RATE CALCULATION

100 * (total current expenditures ÷ Oct. 1 student membership)

¹ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Public Education Finances 2006," U.S. Census Bureau, 2008, retrieved from www.census.gov on 5/1/2009. Note that the figures reported by the Census Bureau may differ slightly from data provided directly from state education agencies due to differing definitions.

² *Ibid.*

³ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Public Education Finances 2001, U.S. Census Bureau, 2003, retrieved from www.census.gov on 5/1/2009.

⁴ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Public Education Finances 2006., U.S. Census Bureau, 2008, retrieved from www.census.gov on 5/1/2009.

⁵ Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Education Finance, "Resource Allocation," Louisiana Department of Education, retrieved from www.doe.state.la.us on 5/1/2009.

PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORTED IN 2005 DOLLARS

	SY 2001	SY 2005	Change SY 2001-2005
LOUISIANA	\$7,220	\$8,434	\$1,214
Acadia	\$6,502	\$6,998	\$496
Allen	\$7,179	\$8,145	\$966
Ascension	\$7,253	\$7,522	\$269
Assumption	\$7,593	\$7,936	\$344
Avoyelles	\$6,331	\$6,200	-\$131
Beauregard	\$6,618	\$7,631	\$1,013
Bienville	\$8,053	\$9,663	\$1,610
Bossier	\$6,688	\$7,630	\$942
Caddo	\$7,702	\$8,248	\$545
Calcasieu	\$6,743	\$8,212	\$1,468
Caldwell	\$6,895	\$8,139	\$1,245
Cameron	\$9,003	S	n.a.
Catahoula	\$7,579	\$7,552	-\$26
Claiborne	\$7,515	\$8,696	\$1,181
Concordia	\$7,384	\$7,748	\$363
De Soto	\$8,492	\$9,221	\$729
East Baton Rouge	\$8,088	\$8,301	\$213
East Carroll	\$7,790	\$8,564	\$775
East Feliciana	\$7,620	\$8,261	\$640
Evangeline	\$6,352	\$7,954	\$1,602
Franklin	\$6,646	\$7,213	\$567
Grant	\$6,476	\$7,085	\$609
Iberia	\$7,203	\$7,625	\$422
Iberville	\$8,436	\$8,670	\$234
Jackson	\$8,088	\$10,552	\$2,463
Jefferson	\$7,357	\$9,720	\$2,362
Jefferson Davis	\$7,317	\$8,363	\$1,047
Lafayette	\$6,598	\$7,896	\$1,298
Lafourche	\$7,240	\$7,827	\$587
La Salle	\$7,121	\$7,572	\$450
Lincoln	\$6,940	\$7,109	\$169
Livingston	\$5,928	\$6,669	\$741
Madison	\$6,851	\$7,638	\$787
Morehouse	\$7,168	\$8,405	\$1,237
Natchitoches	\$7,272	\$7,583	\$311
Orleans	\$7,108	S	n.a.
Ouachita	\$7,001	\$7,751	\$750
Plaquemines	\$8,054	\$12,478	\$4,423
Pointe Coupee	\$8,025	\$9,027	\$1,002
Rapides	\$7,408	\$7,570	\$162
Red River	\$8,314	\$9,005	\$690
Richland	\$7,090	\$7,720	\$629
Sabine	\$6,658	\$7,097	\$438
St. Bernard	\$7,167	S	n.a.
St. Charles	\$9,149	\$10,193	\$1,044
St. Helena	\$7,289	\$7,078	-\$211
St. James	\$8,006	\$9,655	\$1,648
St. John the Baptist	\$8,617	\$9,078	\$460
St. Landry	\$6,914	\$7,427	\$513
St. Martin	\$6,814	\$6,949	\$134
St. Mary	\$7,109	\$7,548	\$439
St. Tammany	\$7,634	\$9,222	\$1,588
Tangipahoa	\$6,156	\$7,128	\$972
Tensas	\$9,134	\$10,666	\$1,532
Terrebonne	\$6,927	\$7,486	\$559
Union	\$6,415	\$7,286	\$870
Vermilion	\$6,583	\$7,857	\$1,275
Vernon	\$7,110	\$8,243	\$1,133
Washington	\$7,497	\$8,876	\$1,380
Webster	\$6,583	\$7,323	\$740
West Baton Rouge	\$7,647	\$7,611	-\$36
West Carroll	\$5,957	\$7,504	\$1,546
West Feliciana	\$8,919	\$9,360	\$441
Winn	\$7,523	\$8,202	\$679

S — Data for some hurricane-affected parishes were suppressed because the per-pupil expenditures in those parishes were inflated due to several factors, including low enrollment and recovery spending.