



Christie Administration Releases the 2015 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The Department of Education today released the *2015 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending* to inform New Jersey residents and interested citizens about how their tax dollars are spent in their local school district.

"The annual spending guide continues to be a valuable source of clear, useful data for taxpayers who want information about spending in our schools," said Commissioner of Education David C. Hespe. "This guide provides a detailed break-down of where all taxpayers' dollars are spent on our schools, providing a complete picture of spending in every school district in New Jersey."

The *Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending* provides the public with information about school districts' annual budgets. Included are two types of total expenditures:

- Total per-pupil spending, which details all district expenditures including state expenditures on behalf of school districts; and
- Budgetary costs per pupil, which only includes costs that are similar among school districts.

For the 2013-14 school year, the average total cost per pupil in the state is \$19,211. This is 1.6 percent higher than the prior year's average of \$18,909.

The guide also compares school districts of similar size and ranks districts in 14 spending categories, such as total administrative costs and total classroom instruction, as well as four staffing indicators such as student-teacher ratios and ratios of faculty to administrative staff. Costs are ranked on a per-pupil basis from low to high.

The *Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending* can be found at www.state.nj.us/education/guide/2015/.

The guide was first produced in the spring of 1997 as the *Comparative Spending Guide*. The guide's name was changed in 2011, when the Department of Education developed a new total spending measure that continues to provide a more inclusive representation of district and state expenditures.