



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Murphy Administration Releases 2023 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending**

**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) today released the 2023 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending to support New Jerseyans in understanding spending practices of school districts across the state and to further support transparency in taxpayer spending.

"This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year that the Department has posted the Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending," **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education.** "This is a tool that can generate discussion between the public and local school officials to encourage a shared understanding of the needs and the goals of the local school district."

For the 2022-2023 school year, the average Budgetary Cost Per Pupil was \$19,164. This represents the state average for districts that serve students in preschool through grade 12, charter schools, county vocational school districts, and county special services school districts. The Budgetary Cost Per Pupil calculation excludes costs that aren't directly comparable from district-to-district, such as transportation, payments on school-construction debt, and tuition for out-of-district programs. The 2022-2023 Budgetary Cost Per Pupil is an increase of \$1,508 (8.5 percent) over the average *actual* spending from the prior year.

The Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending also groups schools by size and grade levels served, and ranks spending in 17 categories, including, but not limited to, total administrative costs, total classroom instruction, as well as staff indicators such as student/teacher ratios and ratios of faculty to administrative staff.

The Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending also provides a measure of "Total Spending Per Pupil," which includes the Budgetary Cost Per Pupil, plus all other expenditures, including tuition payments for students sent out of district, lunch programs covered by student fees, transportation for public and nonpublic students, and pension payments made by the State. The latest available Total Spending Per Pupil, which is for the 2021-2022 school year, is \$27,486, an increase of \$2,982 (12.2 percent) from the prior year.

The Department's website provides the [Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending](#) reports dating back to 1999.

