



For Immediate Release

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Murphy Administration Announces 2025 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education today released the 2025 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending, a tool to help New Jersey residents understand the spending practices of their local school district.

"This annual spending guide offers a straightforward, transparent look at how districts are investing their resources," said **Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner of Education**. "It provides another useful tool for districts and communities as they review the effectiveness of their programs and make decisions aligned to student needs. The guide also helps support meaningful conversations between residents and local school officials about how budget choices reflect educational priorities."

For the 2024-2025 school year, the average Budgetary Cost Per Pupil of a New Jersey school district was \$21,199. 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 are not directly comparable from district-to-district, such as transportation, payments on school construction debt, and tuition for out-of-district programs. The 2024-2025 Budgetary Cost Per Pupil calculation, which is based on districts' budget projections, reflects an increase of \$1,913 (9.9%) over districts' average *actual* spending from the prior year.

The guide groups school districts by size and the grade levels they serve and ranks them by per-pupil spending in 15 spending categories, such as total administrative costs and total classroom instruction. The guide also includes staffing indicators such as student/teacher ratios and ratios of faculty to administrative staff.

In addition, the Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending provides a measure of "Total Spending Per Pupil," which includes the Budgetary costs as well as all other district expenditures, including tuition payments for students sent out of district, transportation for public and nonpublic students, lunch programs covered by student fees, and pension payments made by the state on behalf of school districts. The latest available average Total Spending Per Pupil, which is for the previous school year (2023-2024), is \$29,978, an increase of \$1,161 (4.0 percent) from the prior year.

The full reports can be found on the Department's [Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending webpage](#).



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