Key Facts Regarding Funding in Montana Compared to National Averages Sourced from Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances*

HOW MUCH ARE MONTANA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPENDING PER PUPIL COMPARED TO ELSEWHERE?

Washington spends $14,556 per pupil ($381 million more per year than in Montana)

Wyoming spends $16,698 per pupil ($715 million more per year than in Montana)

Montana spends $12,101 per pupil in current expenditures

North Dakota spends $14,242 per pupil ($333 million more per year than in Montana)

Massachusetts, often cited as a bellwether regarding high student performance, spends $18,733 per pupil ($1.03 billion more per year than in Montana)

National average per pupil current spending is $13,494 ($216 million more per year than in Montana)

WHAT ARE THE RESPECTIVE SHARES OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS IN MONTANA?

**FEDERAL SOURCES:**
12.4% (5th in the nation)
National average funding from federal sources is 7.5%  

**STATE SOURCES:**
42.9% (33rd in the nation)
National average funding from state sources is 47%

**LOCAL SOURCES:**
44.7% (25th in the nation)
National average funding from local sources is 45.5%

See Rankings for Montana on next page

*https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2020/secondary-education-finance/elsec20_sumtables.xls
Montana is ranked 33rd for total revenue (current and capital revenues combined) per pupil ($13,769).

National average is $16,202 or $378 million per year more than in Montana.

Montana is:

5th in the nation for federal revenue per pupil ($1,707). National average is $1,204
38th in the nation for state revenue per pupil ($5,912). National average is $7,548
25th in the nation for local revenue per pupil ($6,150). National average is $7,310
29th in the nation in current spending per pupil ($12,101). National average is $13,494
30th in the nation in spending on instruction per pupil ($7,131). National average is $8,176
26th in the nation in spending on instructional salaries per pupil ($4,811). National average is $5,146
39th in the nation in spending on instructional employee benefits ($1,480). National average is $2,271
13th in the nation in spending on general administration per pupil ($395). National average is $265
30th in the nation in spending on school administration per pupil ($701). National average is $758

Montanans pay tax equivalent to 3.35% for public schools

37th in overall revenue ($38.15 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $41.90
7th in federal sources ($4.73 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $3.14.
39th in state sources ($16.38 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $19.69
24th in local sources ($17.04 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $19.07
36th in current spending (33.53 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $35.89
37th in instructional spending ($19.76 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $22.01
29th in instructional salaries ($13.33 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $13.42
43rd in instructional benefits ($4.10 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $5.93
9th in general administration ($1.09 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $.69
35th in school administration ($1.94 per $1,000 personal income). National average is $1.98

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