
**KEY FINDINGS OF THIS REPORT**

- K-12 Education costs Utah taxpayers about $5 billion per year for operating costs, with another half billion in federal funds and a half billion in local sources to support capital costs.
- Kindergarten through 12th grade education accounts for 23% of the state budget.
- While Utah is second lowest in total school funding per pupil, it is last in funding from the federal government – due in part to both Utah’s low percentage of lower-income students and Utah’s modest state and local funding, which in turn affect federal funding formulas.
- Utah’s funding “effort” (the amount per $1,000 of personal income) at the state level exceeds the national average while its local-level funding effort trails behind.
- There are vast differences among districts’ state, local and federal revenue – due in large part to district size, location and proportion of lower-income students.
- Utah has the second largest class size in the nation, which is likely a key factor in keeping K-12 educational costs low.
- In terms of “effort,” Utah spends more than most states on teacher benefits.
- Despite the perceptions of many Utahns that large portions of education spending go toward administrative costs, only 7% is spent on administration – the 13th lowest percentage in the nation and the second-lowest amount per pupil in the nation.
- Although charter schools spend a much smaller percentage per-pupil on instructional employee benefits than district schools, charter schools spend a significantly higher percentage on support services and administration.
- Due in large part to district size, spending on district administration ranges from $254 per pupil to $1,947.
- Due in large part to logistical differences, spending on transportation among districts ranges from $277 per pupil to $1,500. Charter schools, meanwhile, spend far less than district schools.

For more information on this report, please contact Dan Bammes, Communications Director, at 801-355-1400 or dan@utahfoundation.org.

Special thanks to the sponsor of this report:

**The Brent and Bonnie Jean Beesley Foundation**