

Per-pupil operating spending varies across different types of Ohio school districts

Spending Per Pupil by District Comparison Group, FY 2021				
Comparison Group – Description		Number of Districts	Enrollment %	Spending Per Pupil
Rural	High poverty, small population	123	9.4%	\$13,194
Rural	Average poverty, very small population	106	6.3%	\$12,947
Small Town	Low poverty, small population	110	11.1%	\$11,676
Small Town	High poverty, average population	89	11.6%	\$12,409
Suburban	Low poverty, average population	77	20.2%	\$12,768
Suburban	Very low poverty, large population	46	16.5%	\$13,774
Urban	High poverty, average population	47	12.8%	\$13,778
Urban	Very high poverty, very large population	8	12.2%	\$16,323
State Total*		606	100%	\$13,387

*Three small outlier districts are not included.

Source: Ohio Department of Education

- In FY 2021, average per-pupil operating spending within socioeconomic and geographic comparison groups ranged from \$11,676 in low poverty, small town districts to \$16,323 in the very large, high poverty urban districts.
- The very large, high poverty urban districts spent 21.9% (\$2,936) above the state average of \$13,387.
- Small town districts had the lowest spending per pupil, averaging 10.0% (\$1,337) below the state average.
- On average, classroom instruction comprises most district operating spending. FY 2021 average operating spending by function:
 - 69.9% classroom instruction.
 - 30.1% nonclassroom activities (administration, operations, maintenance, transportation, and food service).