



GUIDE TO YOUR SCHOOL SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

“By the Numbers” school system data was drawn from Fiscal Year 2017.

By the Numbers

	Schools¹	13
	Students/ADM²	9,261
	Free & Reduced Lunch	47.81%
	Community Eligibility Program	31%
	Number of Route Buses³	121
	State Funded Buses	82%
	Students Bused	4,834
	Full-Time Employees	1,096
	Teachers	574
	Principals/ Assistant Principals	33
	Counselors	21
	Librarians	13
	Other Certified Employees	26
	Support Personnel	429

Schools: The school count includes Career Technical Education and schools with enrollment.

Students/ADM: This figure is the Average Daily Membership (ADM). ADM is used specifically for funding in the Foundation Program and is captured by averaging the number of students enrolled during the 20-day period following Labor Day each year.

Free & Reduced Lunch: Students whose families are at 130 percent of the poverty threshold are eligible for free lunch and at 185 percent are eligible for a reduced-price lunch. Parent applications are required for students to be identified. The Snapshot captures the percentage of students eligible for free- and reduced-priced lunch in your system.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): The CEP is a no cost student meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. The figure shown is the district wide identified student percentage of CEP eligible students in the system. A school system is eligible for partial reimbursement when over 40% of the students qualify based on DHR eligibility and is qualified for 100% reimbursement if they reach 62.5% eligibility.

Number of Route Buses; Percentage of State Funded Buses and Students Bused: This baseline data is just the beginning of the story about how your system is funded to provide for transportation.

TIP You may wish to share data about miles driven, fuel cost and the number of bus routes your system provides to serve students of all ages/grades each day. It is important to explain that systems are only funded for eligible route buses that are ten years old or less, and the allocation received per bus is less than 10% of the cost of a new bus.

Full-Time Employees: Your total number may vary because these SDE figures may not include the superintendent, any assistant superintendents and other supervisors that are unique to your system.

TIP This number may illustrate that your public school system is the driving economic engine as an employer in your local community. You also may also wish to share the number of part-time employees in your system.

NOTE: Minimal variances in the data may occur.

Financial data was pulled from the most current data provided to the SDE for Fiscal Year 2017.



\$5,709,097
Cost of One Month's
Operation³

The monthly operating budget for the school system is not a commonly known figure. This figure helps demonstrate the significant resources needed to keep schools running each month and the stability of ongoing operations.

NOTE: This number excludes Transportation Fleet Renewal and Capital Purchase Funds (also known as PSF Capital Outlay Funds).

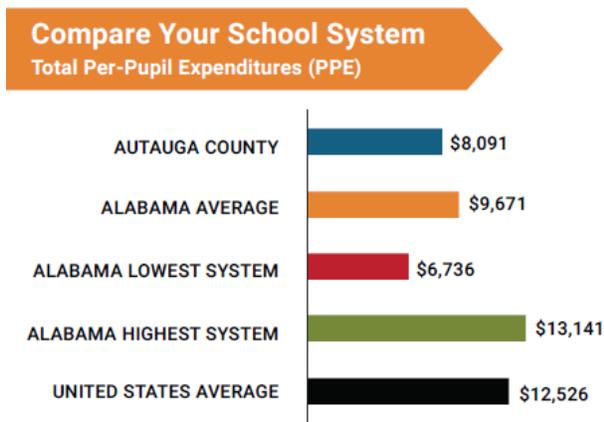
One-Month Operating Expenses: The School Fiscal Accountability Act, enacted in 2006, requires each school system to maintain a minimum of one-month's operating expenses in its General Fund reserve.



1.41
Number of Months
Reserve Balance

TIP Some systems are still working on plans to build their General Fund reserves. This is an opportunity to explain your system's successes or challenges to reach or maintain the minimum reserve.

Per-Pupil Expenditures:



This section provides Alabama's state average, lowest and highest system and the United States average per-pupil expenditures (including all sources) in a chart format. Your system's total per-pupil expenditures are the first bar graph in blue.

Your per-pupil expenditures are also ranked by federal, state and local spending.

The bottom blue box provides your overall school system rank among the state's 137 local school systems.

Autauga County Rank Among 137 Alabama School Systems

Federal PPE Rank **114**
State PPE Rank **73**
Local PPE Rank **136**

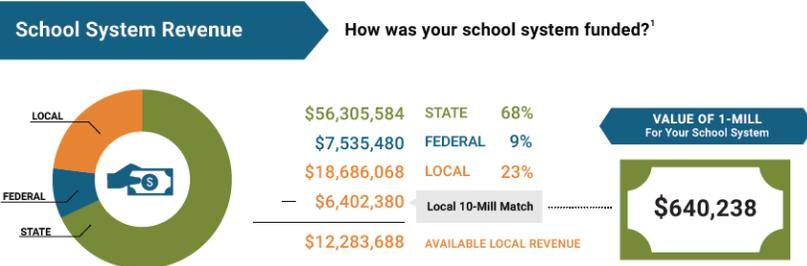


NOTE: Your lawmakers may have several school systems in their legislative district and may question differences in per-pupil funding.

OVERALL SYSTEM RANK 135

How was your school system funded?

This section outlines your funding sources: federal, state and local, as provided by the State Department of Education. This graph can help emphasize your school system’s reliance on federal, state and local dollars to provide services to students.

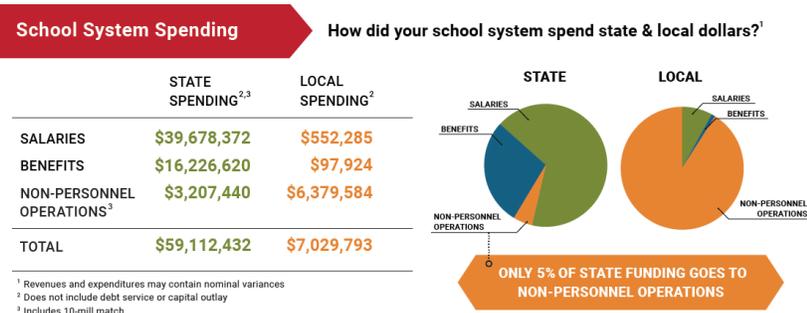


The local funding source is modified in the Snapshot by subtracting the local 10-mill match required to be pledged to participate in the state’s Foundation Program.

The value of 1-Mill for your school system was taken by dividing your local match by 10. A separate guide showing every school system’s 1-Mill rank is provided.

TIP Unless they serve on the education budget committees, many lawmakers may not know the practical impact of the 10-mill match. Use this opportunity to explain that your local school system has no discretion on the “match” dollars which must be used to fund items in the state’s Foundation Program.

How did your school system spend state & local dollars?



This section breaks down system spending into broad categories of salaries, benefits and operational costs. Operational costs do not include debt service or capital outlay.

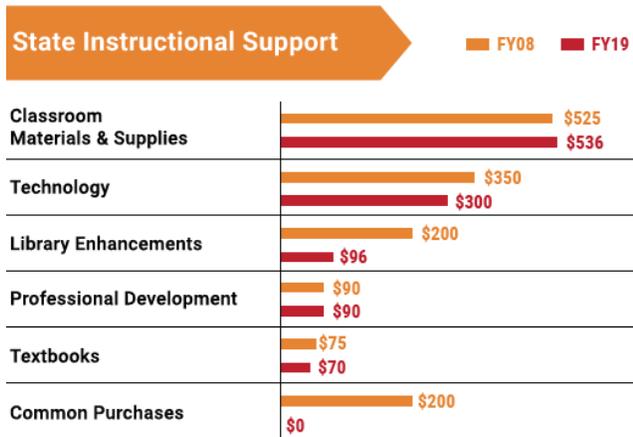
The state spending category includes your 10-mill match pledged from local funding. Lawmakers often believe the state provides most of the funding to operate schools. This section clearly demonstrates the percentage of operational costs from state versus local funding.

TIP Transportation is a consistently underfunded line item. Be prepared to explain how many local dollars you must use to transport students because of insufficient state funding. Explain how you would otherwise use those dollars.

TIP School leaders consistently request an education budget that prioritizes “Other Current Expense” (OCE). Local insight about your OCE expenditures can clarify why prioritizing this line item best helps you achieve system goals.

- Nearly all of state OCE funding goes directly to support personnel salaries and benefits to keep schools safe, clean and the doors open. What percentage of your OCE funds support personnel?
- What part of your utilities, supplies and other operations, if any, are paid by the state’s OCE line item?
- If the education budget provided additional OCE dollars, where would you be able to spend your local dollars? Additional middle school teachers? Supplies? Maintenance? Technology?
- How much of your budget is earmarked and lacks flexibility?

State Instructional Support:



The first line, in orange, on the chart shows the state's direct funding of Classroom Instructional Support (CIS) categories provided in Fiscal Year 2008, the closest the state came to fully funding instructional needs at that time.

The second line, in red, shows Fiscal Year 2019 (current year) funding of CIS. These funding levels do not reflect 10 years of inflation.

TIP Describe the impact on student learning from the lack of funding for classroom materials.

TIP The typical cost of an elementary reading textbook is approximately \$50, a junior high literature textbook is \$90 and a high school calculus textbook is \$100. What age and in what condition are the textbooks being used in your school system?

TIP How does your system fund professional development, particularly as new curriculum standards are implemented and new technology is introduced?

School System Debt:



The total debt figure does not include premium/discount amortization, compensated absences and net pension liability as reflected in the system audit. The debt figures are sourced from those provided to the State Department of Education.

The debt per student figure is derived from Fiscal Year 2017 Average Daily Membership (ADM).

TIP Be prepared to explain the sources and history of the school system debt and current or future plans to incur additional debt.

TIP Lawmakers also may be interested in the terms of the debt and the timeframe to pay down the debt.

TIP This conversation can be used to demonstrate the board's long-term strategic plan and challenges to address students' current and future needs.