



CHEROKEE COUNTY

SCHOOL SYSTEM SNAPSHOT: 2026 EDITION*

130 E Main Street | Centre, AL 35960 | (256) 927-3362

Superintendent

Michael Welsh

Board Members

Timothy Colbert, Randall Davis, Nathan Ealy, Lisa Chandler, Lisa McKissick

\$3,747,445

Cost of One Month's Operation/General Fund

6.45

Number of Months Reserve Balance

By the Numbers

	Schools¹	8
	Students/ADM²	3,693
	Free & Reduced Lunch	62%
	Community Eligibility Program	62%
	Number of Route Buses³	55
	Buses 10 yrs. old or less	100%
	Students Bused	2,311
	Full-Time Employees	545
	Teachers	267
	Principals/ Assistant Principals	16
	Counselors	11
	Librarians	7
	Other Certified Employees	17
	Support Personnel	227

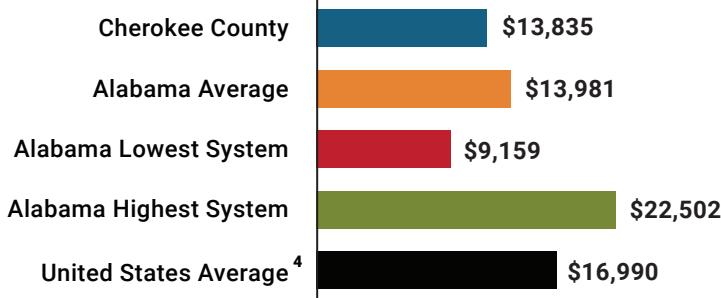
¹ Schools with enrollment, including Alternative and Career Technical Education

² Average Daily Membership (includes virtual students)

³ Data collected in 2024 and used for FY26 funding

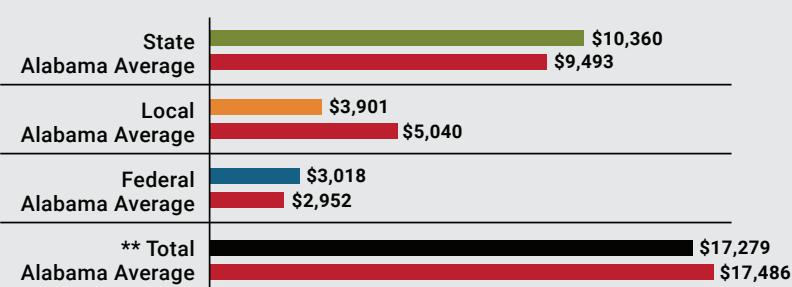
⁴ 2024-2025 NEA Rankings of the States

Total Per-Pupil Expenditures (PPE)



Per-Pupil Revenue Sources

Cherokee County Revenue Sources



**Total Revenue Among 139 School Systems



56
STATE
RANK

66
LOCAL
RANK

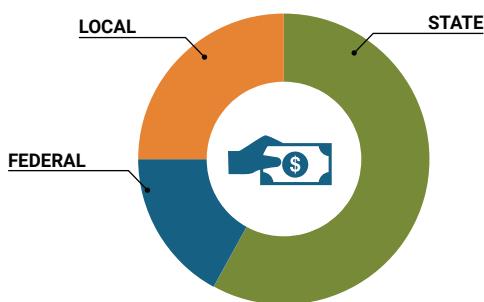
67
FEDERAL
RANK

OVERALL SYSTEM RANK 73

LEAs with a substantial increase in reported ADM may show lower rankings since additional revenues reflecting those increases are not received until the following fiscal year. LEAs with a statewide virtual program may also be ranked lower overall due to state revenues received for increased ADM as compared to their local and federal revenue sources.

School System Revenue

How was your school system funded?¹



\$38,254,988	STATE	58%
\$11,145,245	FEDERAL	17%
\$16,774,891	LOCAL	25%
—		
\$3,117,030		
	Local 10-Mill Match	
\$13,657,861		AVAILABLE LOCAL REVENUE

VALUE OF 1-MILL
For Your School System



School System Spending

How did your school system spend state & local dollars?¹

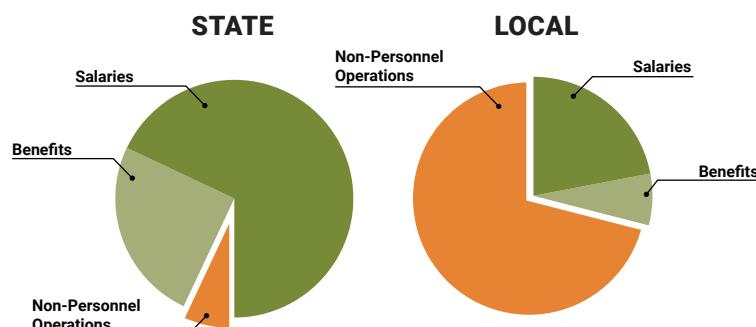
	STATE SPENDING ^{2,3}	LOCAL SPENDING ²
Salaries	\$22,767,298	\$2,069,827
Benefits	\$8,325,038	\$619,528
Non-Personnel Operations	\$2,235,821	\$6,783,769
TOTAL	\$33,328,158	\$9,473,124

¹ Revenues and expenditures may contain nominal variances due to rounding

² Does not include debt service or capital outlay

³ Includes 10-mill match

⁴ Such as utilities, operations & maintenance, etc.



Only 7% of state funding is available
for non-personnel expenditures⁴

Instructional Support

■ FY25 ■ FY26*

Classroom Materials & Supplies	■ \$900	■ \$1,000
Technology	■ \$500	■ \$500
Library Enhancements	■ \$158	■ \$158
Professional Development	■ \$100	■ \$100
Textbooks/ Digital Resources	■ \$100	■ \$100
Common Purchase*	■ \$100	■ \$0
Removed for FY26		

Educational Advancement & Technology Fund⁵

FY25	■ \$4,126,656
FY24	■ \$3,715,424
FY23	■ \$0
FY22	■ \$1,044,047
FY21	■ \$1,055,066

⁵ These one-time supplemental funds may be used for repairs and deferred maintenance, capital outlay, classroom instructional supplies, insurance for facilities, transportation, technology and school safety. For FY23, there was no EAT allocation for school systems.

System Debt

TOTAL DEBT⁶ ■ **DEBT PER STUDENT**
\$37,111,176 ■ \$10,050

⁶ The debt totals in system audit reports may differ due to audit adjustments.



ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS

Sally Smith, J.D.
Executive Director

Tracey A. Meyer
Governmental Relations Coordinator

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