

**Expenditures
Per
Student**

2003-2004 Education Costs			
School	Total Cost	Enrollment	Total Cost per Student
Public	\$132,649,486	13,571	\$9,774
State	\$8,911,238,906	871,214	\$10,229

Key Facts

- Wood County public school districts spent a total of \$132,649,486 for an average of \$9,774 per student during the 2003-2004 academic year.
- Per student spending for the public Wood County districts was slightly less than the State average per student expenditure of \$10,229 in 2003-04.
- State law imposes revenue caps that limit the amount of new school funding available to each public school district.

Why is this Information Important?

To operate effectively, school districts need to be adequately financed. Districts that struggle financially often are required to cut corners that can jeopardize a student’s educational experience as well as the district’s viability as a community member. School districts that lack adequate funding resources may not be able to hire adequate staff, purchase current textbooks or computers, or support valuable extra-and co-curricular activities. Students who are taught in school districts with adequate funding/resources typically have a higher quality of education and a broader variety of educational experiences, resulting in a better quality of life.

School District Spending

The majority of school district expenses come from general fund expenditures which include categories of licensed instruction, support services, transportation, and operation/administration/other. The largest expenditure in the general funds category is licensed instruction. This category encompasses nearly 69% of total expenditures and deals directly with activities associated with interaction between students and staff. This includes salaries and benefits, classroom supplies, equipment and textbooks.

Sources: WI DPI; individual Wood County area school districts