MAINE

Education Funding Overview

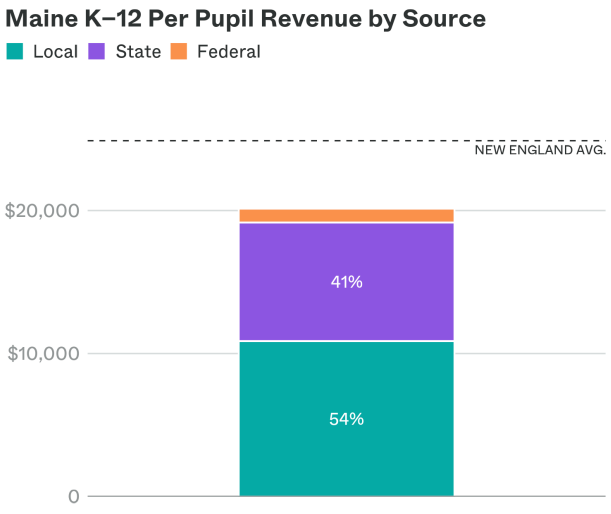
1. What does the state spend on K–12 education?

Maine's 2025–26 enacted budget totaled $14.53 billion, $5.81 billion of which came from the general fund.[1] The Department of Education received $2.27 billion, $1.94 billion of which were general fund dollars. (Other funding sources include multiple federal pass-through allocations and just over $44 million in special state revenue.)

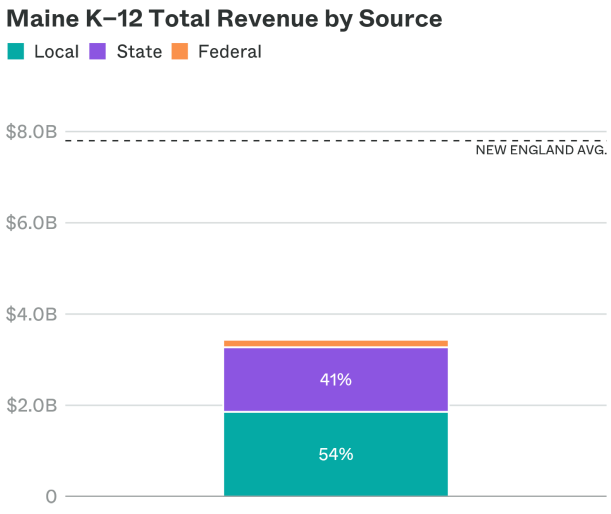
Education funding is primarily distributed through the Essential Programs and Services formula, which accounts for the costs of staff and other inputs; variation in regional labor costs; and differences in student need levels.[2] After calculating a target funding amount for each school system, the formula expects districts to contribute a share, the amount of which is based on local and statewide property values. The balance is provided as state aid.

2. What revenues make up school districts' funding?

Including state, local, and federal dollars, school districts in Maine collectively had $3.44 billion to spend in 2023, or $20,130 per pupil.[3] The state contributed 41 percent of this funding, on average, though low-property-wealth districts received a higher share of their funding from the state and high-wealth districts received a lower share.



Source: NCES School District Finance Survey (F-33), 2023.



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Notes

1. Office of Fiscal and Program Review, *Total Appropriations & Allocations All Funds: 2026–2027 Biennium* (updated August 1, 2025), Maine State Legislature, https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/11914.
2. Adrienne Fischer and Chris Duncombe, "50-State Comparison: K–12 Funding 2024, Primary Funding Model," Education Commission of the States, March 2024, https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/k-12-funding-2024-01; Maine Department of Education, *Essential Programs and Services Overview* (February 1, 2021), https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/School%20Finance%20-%20EPS%20Overview%20Presentation%20to%20Legislative%20Committee%20-%202.1.2021.pdf.
3. United States Census Bureau, *Summary Tables: Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances: Fiscal Year 2023* (updated April 2025), distributed by the United States Census Bureau, https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2023/secondary-education-finance/elsec23_sumtables.xlsx.