RHODE ISLAND

Education Funding Overview

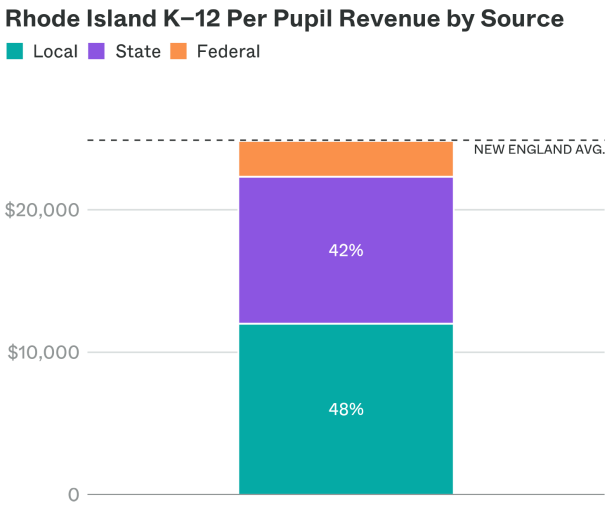
1. What does the state spend on K–12 education?

Rhode Island's 2026 budget totaled $14.34 billion, $5.81 billion of which came from the general fund.[1] Spending on elementary and secondary education accounted for $2.01 billion, of which $1.66 billion, including nearly all operational aid for school districts, came from the general fund.

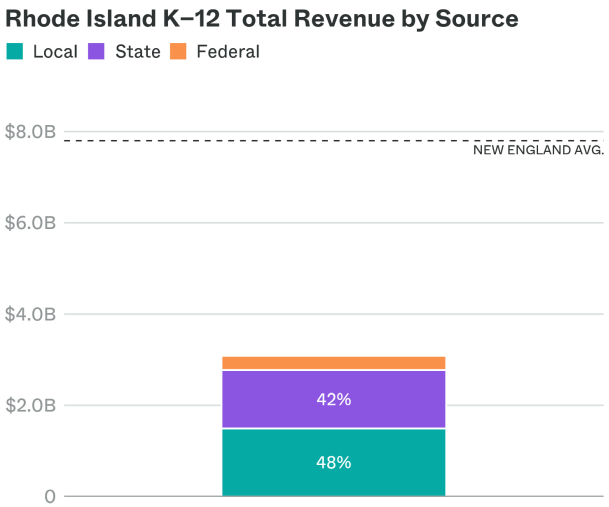
Education funding is primarily distributed through a student-based formula that sets a base amount of instructional funding for each student and supplemental amounts for students with higher needs, including students from low-income backgrounds and multilingual learners.[2] After calculating a target funding amount for each school system, the state commits to contribute a share, which is set based on district and statewide property values.

2. What revenues make up school districts' funding?

Including state, local, and federal dollars, school districts in Rhode Island collectively had $3.08 billion to spend in 2023, or $24,831 per pupil.[3] The state contributed 42 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. State of Rhode Island Office of Management and Budget, “FY 2027 Budget Data Visualization,” January 14, 2026, https://omb.ri.gov/data-visualizations/FY-2027-budget.
2. Rhode Island Department of Education, “FY 2026 Formula Calculation,” June 20, 2025, https://ride.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur806/files/2025-06/FY-2026-Formula-Calcs-6-20-25.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.