New America

EDUCATION & WORK

CONNECTICUT

Education Funding Overview

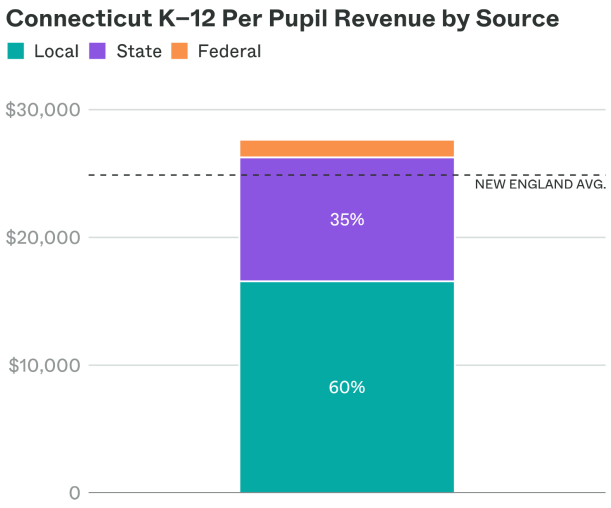
1. What does the state spend on K–12 education?

Connecticut's 2025 operating expenditures totaled $53.3 billion, $22.7 billion of which came from the general fund.[1] Of this, the Department of Education received $4.33 billion (19 percent of general fund spending), with another $4.24 billion spent on teacher retirement.

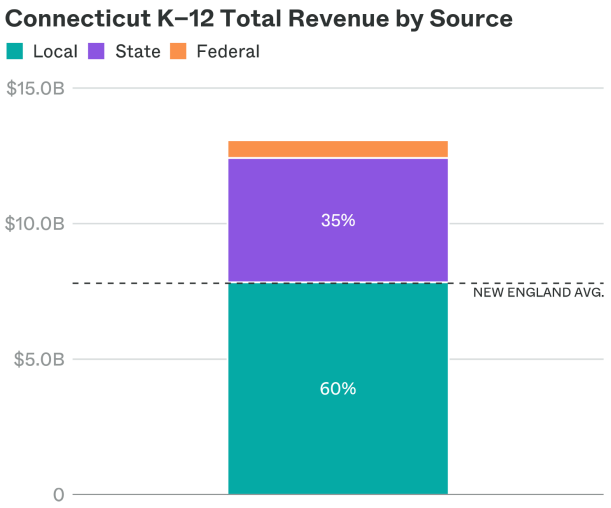
Education funding is primarily distributed through the Education Cost Sharing grant, a student-based formula that sets a foundation amount for each student and an increased amount for students with higher needs, including English learners and students from low-income backgrounds.[2] After calculating a target funding amount for each school system, the formula expects districts to contribute a share, which is set based on local property values and income levels. The balance is provided as state aid.

2. What revenues make up school districts' funding?

Including state, local, and federal dollars, school districts in Connecticut collectively had $13.08 billion to spend in 2023, or $27,649 per pupil.[3] The state provided, on average, 35 percent of this funding, though low-wealth, low-income districts received a higher share of their funding from the state, and more affluent districts received a lower share.



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



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Notes

1. Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller, “Open Budget: 2025 Operating Expenses,” https://openbudget.ct.gov/#!/year/2025/operating/0/fund_type?vis=pieChart.
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; and Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-262f.
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.