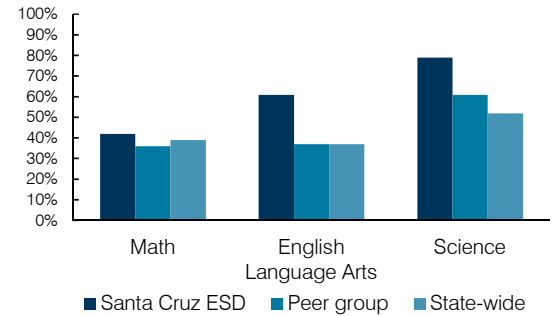




Santa Cruz County
Rural district
Kindergarten through 8th grade
Students attending: 214
Number of schools: 1
School letter grade: A

Students who passed State assessments



Total operational spending—\$2.1 million (\$9,721 per pupil)

Instructional—52.4% (\$5,089 per pupil)

Noninstructional—47.6% (\$4,632 per pupil)

Operational overview	Measure	Santa Cruz ESD	Peer average
<p>Administration—reasonably efficient despite higher costs</p> <p>The District served 38 percent fewer students than peer districts, on average, and therefore, its administrative costs were spread across fewer students. We reviewed the District’s administrative expenditures and did not identify any overstaffing or unusually high salaries or other costs. However, the District needs to improve some accounting controls (see page 2).</p>	Cost per pupil	\$1,774	\$1,231
<p>Plant operations—mixed costs but reasonably efficient</p> <p>The District spent a similar amount per pupil despite a higher cost per square foot because it operated and maintained 21 percent less square feet per student than peer districts, on average. Districts that operate substantially fewer square feet per student tend to have higher costs per square foot because of higher usage.</p>	Cost per square foot	\$9.39	\$6.81
	Square feet per pupil	121	153
<p>Food service—lack of documentation prevented program evaluation</p> <p>The District spent a similar amount per meal despite a higher cost per pupil because it served 9 percent more meals per pupil. However, the District did not maintain enough documentation for us to evaluate the program (see page 2).</p>	Cost per pupil	\$635	\$549
	Cost per meal	\$3.56	\$3.41
<p>Transportation—lower costs but potential safety concerns</p> <p>The District employed efficient practices that kept costs low, such as utilizing transportation employees in other operational areas when not driving buses. It also contracted out some open-enrollment and high school student routes to parents at a much lower cost than operating the routes independently. However, the District did not keep bus maintenance and repair records as required by the State’s <i>Minimum Standards for School Buses and School Bus Drivers</i> (Minimum Standards), which are designed to help ensure bus passengers’ safety (see page 2).</p>	Cost per mile	\$1.34	\$1.93
	Cost per rider	\$967	\$1,267